The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR CONVENTION NUMBER

VOL. 27, NO. 51 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1937 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer WHOLE NO. 1392

57TH ANNUAL AFL CONVENTION

Four Hundred and Sixty-Four Delegates, Representing 291 Organizations, Attend Two Weeks' Session of Organized Labor's Legislative Assembly

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Fifty-Seventh Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor was held at Denver, Colorado, October 4 to 15, 1937.

It ranked among the most important conventions ever held by the A. F. of L.

There were 464 delegates in attendance, representing 83 National and International Unions, 34 State Federations of Labor, 103 Central Labor Unions, 65 Trade and Federal Labor Unions, and 4 Departments of the American Federation of Labor. In addition, there were three fraternal delegates.

The 1937 convention was confronted with a number of fundamental problems of tremendous importance to the future of Organized Labor in the United States. The action of the convention on the subjects which came before it, based on the Official Proceedings, is recorded in this special issue of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service. In addition there is included information which came before the convention on a number of important subjects but which did not require official action.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor consists of the President of the Federation, 15 Vice-Presidents, and the Secretary-Treasurer. The members are elected by the annual convention of the Federation for one year, their terms beginning on January 1 following the convention. The Council is the administrative agency of the American Federation of Labor. It is required to give a detailed report of its activities to the annual convention. The duties of the Council include watching legislative matters affecting the interests of working men and women, organizing workers into unions either directly affiliated with the Federation or with affiliated national and international unions, chartering unions, requiring observance by affiliated unions of the obligations assumed in their certificates of affiliation, and administering the funds of the Federation, which for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1937, totaled $1,753,884.98.

A. F. of L. Gains Million Members

Secretary-Treasurer Morrison Reports Big Growth of Affiliated Unions During Fifteen and One-Half Months Increases Total Number of American Federation of Labor Trade Unionists to 3,452,632.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The tremendous success of the organization campaign carried on by the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions is emphatically revealed in a statement by Frank Morrison, A. F. of L. Secretary-Treasurer, which shows that over one million new members have been enrolled in American Federation of Labor unions during the past fifteen and one-half months, raising the total membership to nearly three and one-half millions.

The text of Mr. Morrison's statement follows:

"The membership of the 104 National and International Unions and Local Unions directly affiliated to the American Federation of Labor as of December 13, 1937, is 3,452,532.

"This is a gain of 1,012,477 members over the average membership of the fiscal year ending August 31, 1936.

"This does not include the membership of the ten National and International Unions suspended September 5, 1936."

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

The following topical summary of the proceedings of the Fifty-Seventh Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held at Denver, Colorado, October 4 to 15, 1937, is compiled from the official report of the convention proceedings:

A

AGE DISCRIMINATION.

The convention registered "the strongest expressions of sympathy for workers debarred from employment" by age discrimination, denounced this policy as "one of the most heartless phases of modern industrial practice," recommended "the most vigorous action by the American Federation of Labor against this evil," a d urged that "the proper safeguards be provided for the protection of retirement systems, in or out of the government service." The convention endorsed the joint resolution introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Mead of New York, directing the Secretary of Labor to investigate and report to Congress upon the nature and effect of any economic conditions or statutory provisions which tend to produce unfair or inequitable discrimination on the basis of age in obtaining and retaining employment in public service and private industry.

The Mead resolution, the Executive Council reported, "states that the rapid mechanization of industries and other factors beyond his control make it increasingly difficult for the older worker to obtain and retain employment. It also states that this condition affects materially the well-being and comfort of a considerable number of our citizens and threatens our social structure so that its alleviation and correction has become a matter of public concern.

"Members of Congress are very much disturbed by evidence submitted at many committee hearings that workers in private employment over forty years of age find it difficult to retain their jobs or obtain new ones. In order to express the opposition to such methods the Senate passed S. 714, which forbids any age limit being fixed by the Civil Service Commission. Any applicant who passes an examination and is later appointed to a position in the classified Civil Service shall be eligible to retire under the Retirement Act if he has served fifteen years or more. The House failed to act.

"Agitation for elimination of the age limit, however, caused the Civil Service Commission to make radical changes."

AGRICULTURAL FIELD WORKERS.

National Charter.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution requesting the American Federation of Labor "to grant a national union charter to agricultural field workers," and "pledge itself to bend every effort to the rapid organization of these workers into the American Federation of Labor."

AGRICULTURAL, PACKING HOUSE AND CANNERY WORKERS.

National Council.—The convention approved the plan of the AFL Executive Council to call a conference of representatives of agricultural, packing house and cannery workers unions for the purpose of setting up a National Council in that jurisdiction composed of federal labor unions chartered in the agricultural, packing house and cannery industry and urged that the Council act as promptly as possible.

AIRPLANE SAFETY.

Airplane Safety Bill.—The convention urged the enactment of the Airplane Safety Bill (S. 1760) which provides that before new air lines are granted certificates for operation they must have installed safety appliances such as lights and radio beams prior to operating the planes over new routes and place the regulation of all manufacturers of air craft in the United States under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission as suggested by President Roosevelt. The AFL Executive Council reported that although "the necessity for safety laws governing airplanes is evidenced by the fact that approximately 75 members of the Air Line Pilots Association have lost their lives in accidents in the last 5½ years," the bill "was defeated in the Senate by a filibuster by Senator McKellar." In connection with this filibuster the convention recommended "that determined objection to obstruction of this worthy legislation be registered to members of the Post Office and Post Roads Committee," and also recommended "that this objective be extended to all legislation in the interest of the public and of wage earners now awaiting action by this committee."

ALIEN WORKERS.

Employment on Government Work.—The convention endorsed H. R. 3423 (passed by the House of Representatives during the first session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress, but not acted on by the Senate) which provides that "no existing or future appropriation shall be made available to pay the compensation of any alien who is compensated out of appropriations made by Congress unless the appointing officer certifies under oath that no qualified American citizen can be found who is available for the office or employment," and which also provides "that no existing or future appropriation shall be available to pay the compensation of any alien who is illegally in the United States or its possessions." The convention also instructed the AFL Executive Council to continue efforts for the enactment of the bill.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

Legislative Program.—The convention endorsed the following legislative program of the American Federation of Government Employees and pledged its representatives to "use every effort toward bringing this program to a successful conclusion":

"1. A minimum wage of $1,500 per annum for all full-time employes with statutory automatic increases in salary.

"2. A five-day week of 35 hours with no decrease in pay to be applied throughout the government service.

"3. Extension of the merit system to include all branches of the civil government.

"4. Extension of the Classification Act to the field services.

"5. Optional retirement after 30 years of service; that Seciton 7 of the Retirement Act be amended to read 'That when an employe having rendered 15 or more years of service and becomes involuntarily separated, such employe may be entitled to the benefits as otherwise provided in the Act'; that when an employe having been retired on account of disability and such employe having reached the age of 60 years; that no further physical examination shall be required; that employes at their option be permitted to make additional contributions not to exceed 10 per centum to purchase additional annuities over and above the specified rate.

"6. That overtime be compensated to employes either in the form of salary or leave; that authority for such overtime shall only be by direction of the chief of division or department either direct or through the supervising official; that credit to leave on account of overtime may be accumulated without limit and be made available until used.

"7. Application of the night differential to all positions requiring night shifts.

"8. Payment of not less than the prevailing wage to craft employes in agencies not affected by wage boards or other machinery for fixing adequate wages.

"9. Provision of opportunity for promotion of qualified employes prior to the development of Civil Service eligible lists so that the higher positions will be filled by promotion, thereby establishing the Civil Service as a career service.

"10. Creation of a Civil Service Board of Appeals, so organized as to fully protect the rights of employes.

"11. Optional Q. S. and L.—the cost to be applied uniformly to all positions wherein the furnishing of such services is involved.

"12. Shorter hours and more reasonable pay for employes in Veterans Administration facilities.

"13. Better pay and better working conditions for custodial employes, including charwomen and charmen.

"14. More reasonable hours and better working conditions in all federal penal institutions."

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Achievements.—The convention concurred in the report of the AFL Executive Council outlining the achievements of the American Federation of Labor since it was established fifty-seven years ago.

Pointing out that "the Federation undertook the responsibility of creating a national labor movement when there were less than two score national organizations of trade unions and only a scattered organization of workers into local unions with no national affiliation," the Council declared that "through the Federation local unions were organized, welded into national units, tied in with the members of other unions through central bodies, state federations and the Federation itself, until we developed a widespread chain of human beings extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from our Southern border up through Canada and Alaska."

Protective Labor Legislation

"Starting with practically no labor laws on the statute books of our Federal Government in various States," the Council's report continued, "there is now a substantial body of protective and remedial labor legislation representing resourceful and intelligent work by local branches as well as the national and federated organizations. The Federation has worked for state bureaus of labor statistics and state departments of labor, as well as parallel federal agencies. Federation activity has been a determining factor in securing labor legislation. The influence of the Federation has steadily forced improvements in our public school system and wider educational opportunities. We have been especially concerned for public schools and libraries for these are our educational dependencies for ourselves and our children.

Labor's Economic Power

"The basis of our effectiveness in political and social fields has been our growing economic power. We organized for collective bargaining with employers in order that we might have fair standards of hours and work and good working conditions. Collective bargaining gave us a new status in industry. We were recognized as an essential functional group within industry with rights as well as responsibilities.

Shorter Hours, Larger Buying Power

"We have reduced the work week 15 hours and increased our buying power 30 per cent with a resulting higher standard of living. We have steadily raised the level of collective bargaining conferences between employers and employees. * * *

"We believe that there should be for workers attached to a work force a fundamental job security growing out of their investment of work in the enterprise. Accompanying acceptance of their right to a job, we must make more explicit workers' rights in their jobs.

"The organized labor movement believes that the important and enduring things in life are kindness, fellowship, and cooperation. By irony of circumstances we are forced to concentrate on contending for justice with respect to the material things of life so that we have all too little time for opportunities for higher living."

Anthem.—In considering a resolution urging the American Federation of Labor to adopt a song "Work Along With the A. F. of L." as the National Anthem of the American Federation of Labor, the convention directed attention to the action of a previous convention which adopted an official Federation of Labor song, but expressed the hope that "Work Along With the A. F. of L." will be added to the songs sung at labor gatherings.

The convention adopted a motion to include the words of the song in the report of the proceedings.

Charters Issued.—The convention received with manifest interest the report of Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, that during the twelve months ending August 31, 1937, the A. F. of L. issued 910 charters to National, International, Central, Local Trade and Federal Labor Unions. Of this number three charters were issued to the following National and International Unions: American Federation of State, County and Muicipal Employees, International Association of Cleaning and Dye House Workers, and the International Ladies Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union. Forty-five charters were issued to Central Labor Unions, 586 charters to Local Trade Unions, and 283 charters to Federal Labor Unions.

Charters Revoked, Suspended, Surrendered, Disbanded, Merged, Amalgamated, Joined International Unions, and Reinstated.—From the report of Secretary-Treasurer Morrison the convention learned that during the fiscal year 11 central bodies were disbanded, 4 suspended, and 16 reinstated. During the same period 11 local trade unions were disbanded, 169 suspended, 54 reinstated, and 78 joined national and international unions. Twelve federal labor unions were disbanded, 79 suspended, 18 reinstated, and 18 joined national and international organizations. The International Union of Pavers, Rammermen, Flag Layers, Bridge and Stone Curb Setters and Sheet Asphalt Pavers joined the International Hod Carriers, Building, and Common Laborers Union of America.

Secretary-Treasurer Morrison's report also stated that the American Newspaper Guild and the International Fur Workers Union withdrew from the American Federation of Labor and that the following International Unions were suspended: United Mine Workers of America; Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; United Textile Workers of America; Oil Field, Gas Well, and Refinery Workers of America; International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers; Federation of Flat Glass Workers of America; Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers; International Union, United Automobile Workers of America; United Rubber Workers of America; Journeymen Tailors' Union of America.

Notice!

This edition of the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service contains a Topical Summary of the action taken on various subjects by the Fifty-seventh Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held at Denver, Colorado, October 4 to 15, 1937.

Complete proceedings of the Convention are available, in book form, durably bound, at 75c a copy, and $60 per hundred copies. The complete report of the Executive Council, as submitted to this Convention, may also be had, in book form, at 35c a copy.

Send Orders Direct to:

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
Washington, D. C.

Defense Fund for Local Trade and Federal Labor Unions.—The convention unanimously adopted the report of the Auditing Committee which showed a balance of $553,138.72 in the defense fund for local trade and federal labor unions on August 31, 1937. Secretary-Treasurer Morrison's report stated that the receipts for the fund during the year were $159,452.11 and expenses $136,937.25.

Directly Chartered Local Trade and Federal Trade Unions.—The convention received a report from Secretary-Treasurer Morrison that on August 31, 1937, the A. F. of L. had 1,406 Local Trade and Federal Labor Unions with an average membership for the fiscal year of 114,956 and a defense fund of $533,138.72. Mr. Morrison added that "the Federation has 1,745 general and district organizers, as well as 229 paid organizers and the officers of the 735 city central bodies that are ready at all times to respond to a call to assist the members of directly affiliated unions in the case of strike or lockout. There was received a total per capita tax for defense fund purposes from the local unions during the year of $159,452.11; initiation fees, $177,868.36, and reinstatement fees, $6,901.50."

Executive Council.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor was given unstinted praise by the convention for standing firmly on the fundamental principles of the Federation during the controversy with the Committee for Industrial Organization. Stressing the point that the underlying element in the dispute is the preservation of democracy in the organized labor movement the convention declared:

"We desire to commend the Executive Council for its efficient endeavors and its statesmanship in directing our movement during this trying period of its history.

"For fifty and more years our united efforts as workers have been directed against a common foe. Because of circumstances beyond the control of our movement there has arisen a division in the house of labor. Our strength as a movement is weakened in direct ratio to the widening of this breach in labor's ranks.

"In these days when labor must face ever multiplying problems, both political and economic, there is even greater need for labor solidarity than in days gone by.

Preservation of Democracy

"This division of opinion in the house of labor involves a greater issue than that of economic advancement and security. There is at issue the question of autocracy or democracy as the basic modus operandi of our great movement. The issue between contending factions in the house of labor has been made clear and positions taken by both sides.

"The American Federation of Labor through its executive officers and by actions of the highest tribunal has defintiely sworn its allegiance to democratic institutions and procedures.

"We proceeded from the premise that all power is vested in our membership and that the right to govern is a right which can be granted only by the rank and file of our organizations.

"A government of labor founded upon the principle of usurped power by self-appointed officers is repulsive to every believer in democratic control and operation. In this conflict there can be no partial surrender of our bill of rights. We must perforce make a definite and conclusive choice between democracy and autocracy.

"The American Federation of Labor has made its choice. We intend to preserve our liberties to the last member. Such words as compromise or surrender are removed from our vocabularies on this issue. America will remain American in all of its institutions so far as it lies within our power to preserve them.

"We again commend our Executive Council for their patience, diplomacy and efficiency in steering our ship of state through recent troubled waters. We assure them that their crew are no fair-weather sailors. They will weather this storm, as they have all others, and finally rest at ease in our harbor, secure in the shelter of the democratic bulwarks erected to protect the liberties of our people during the past century and a half."

Financial Statement for Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 1937.—The convention unanimously adopted the report of the Auditing Committee covering all the financial transactions of the American Federation of Labor for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1936, and ending August 31, 1937. The committee found "all books and records accurate and correct in every respect." On August 31, 1936, there was a balance of $569,405.99. The total receipts for the year amounted to $1,184,478.99, making the grand total, including balance on hand at the beginning of the year and the receipts during the year, $1,753,884.98. The total expenses for the fiscal year were $1,167,317.57, an excess of receipts over expenses of $17,161.42. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was $586,567.41.

"The amount of detail work necessary to complete this audit was tremendous," the Auditing Committee said. "However, the splendid condition of the books and records and the wholehearted cooperation extended to us by Secretary-Treasurer Morrison and his assistants facilitated the completion of the work."

Gompers Memorial Fund.—The convention approved the report of the Auditing Committee showing a balance of $15,835.25 in the Gompers Memorial Fund on August 31, 1937. The report of Secretary-Treasurer Morrison said that the total receipts of the fund from December 20, 1924, to and including August 31, 1937, were $133,584.12 and the total expenses $117,748.87.

Legislation for Government Employes.—The convention accepted with appreciation a resolution presented by delegates representing eight national and international unions composed wholly or in part of Government employes expressing the deepest gratitude of the delegates and their fellow members to the American Federation of Labor and its allies for assistance given with respect to legislation concerning federal workers.

"Organizations of Government workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor," the resolution said, "have been successful in repealing adverse legislation, these victories including repeal of wage cuts, restoration of promotions, vacations, differentials for night work, and numerous other hard-won and deeply-cherished rights and privileges.

"Large numbers, notably in the postal service, have gained through legislation the five day week and other benefits, thus not only benefiting themselves but more firmly establishing the principle of shorter hours in industry, and during the recent past, standards of wages, hours and employments have been preserved.

"These very notable victories would have been impossible without the energetic influence and backing of organized labor and the continuous cooperation and assistance of its officers."

The unions whose delegates presented the resolution were the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, National Association of Letter Carriers, Railway Mail Association, American Federation of Government Employees, International Association of Firefighters, International Association of Machinists and the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions.

Membership of Affiliated Unions.—The convention received with enthusiasm the report of Secretary-Treasurer Morrison that the total membership for the month of August, 1937, for organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor was "3,271,726 (not including the membership of the suspended National and International Unions or the two which withdrew), which shows an increase of 1,144,930 members over the average membership of fiscal year ending August 31, 1933, and an increase of 831,671 members during the past twelve months."

Secretary-Treasurer Morrison also reported the following figures showing the strength of the American Federation of Labor by groups: 28,642 Local Unions in 100 National and International Unions, and 1,406 Local Trade and Federal Labor Unions directly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, a grand total of 30,048 Local Unions. There are also four Departments, 712 Local Department Councils, and 49 State Federations of Labor.

Officers—Election.—The convention elected, by unanimous vote, the following officers of the American Federation of Labor for the year beginning January 1, 1938:

President, William Green (miner); first vice president, Frank Duffy (carpenter); second vice president, T. A. Rickert (garment worker); third vice president, Matthew Woll (photo-engraver); fourth vice president, John Coefield (plumber); fifth vice president, Arthur O. Wharton (machinist); sixth vice president, Joseph N. Weber (musician); seventh vice president, G. M. Bugniazet (electrical worker); eighth vice president, George M. Harrison (railway clerk); ninth vice president, Daniel J. Tobin (teamster); tenth vice president, Harry C. Bates (bricklayer); eleventh vice president, Edward J. Gainor (letter carrier); twelfth vice president, W. D. Mahon (street and electric railway carman); thirteenth vice president, Felix H. Knight (railway carman); fourteenth vice president, George E. Browne (theatrical stage employe); fifteenth vice president, Edward Flore (hotel and restaurant employe); secretary-treasurer, Frank Morrison (printer).

Subversive Movements.—The convention received with great satisfaction a resolution introduced by the delegate of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, adopted by the fifteenth convention of the Association "pledging unswerving loyalty and fullest cooperation to the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of resisting the invasion of its ranks by the so-called C. I. O. or any other group challenging its supremacy."

The resolution declared that the American Federation of Labor "always has and still does repudiate all open or disguised forms of Communism, Nazism, Fascism, or any of the other foreign 'isms' or agencies that have for their purpose the displacing of our present form of government and the substitution of their own."

Voting Strength of Affiliated Unions.—Secretary-Treasurer Morrison reported that the entire voting strength of affiliated unions in the 1937 convention was 29,943. The report showed the following voting strength of some of the larger unions: United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, 3,000 votes; the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, 2,019 votes; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 1,712 votes; International Association of Machinists, 1,380 votes; Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Alliance and Bartenders International League of America, 1,071 votes; American Federation of Musicians 1,000 votes. State Federations of Labor, Central Labor Bodies, and directly affiliated Local Trade and Federal Labor Unions are each entitled to one vote in the A. F. of L. convention. In the 1937 convention these groups were entitled to the following voting strength: State Federations of Labor, 49 votes; Central Bodies, 735; directly affiliated Local Trades and Federal Labor Unions, 1,925 votes.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR BUILDING FUND.

The convention approved the report of the Auditing Committee which showed a balance of $67,388.24 in

(Continued on Page 2)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 1)

the American Federation of Labor Building Fund on August 31, 1937. The report of Secretary-Treasurer Morrison said that the balance on hand on August 31, 1936, was $65,294.52. The receipts for the year were $31,413.04, making the total of receipts and balance $96,707.56, and the total expenses for the year, $29,312.32.

AMERICAN MADE PRODUCTS.

Patronage.—In referring to the AFL Executive Council for appropriate action a resolution protesting against the sale in the United States of bicycles made in Japan at a cost much below that of domestic bicycles, the convention declared that "the American Federation of Labor has invariably favored protection of home industry and the maintenance of the American standard of wages," and "believes that the purchasing power of American citizens should be used to purchase American made products."

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING.

Federal Committee on Apprenticeship Training. The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council on apprentice training, with especial emphasis on the relation of the American Federation of Labor with the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship Training, congratulated the Executive Council "on the militant action it has taken," and recommended that the Council "continue its constructive policy in cooperation with the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship Training."

In its report to the convention the Executive Council said:

"The American Federation of Labor has heartily endorsed and cooperated with the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship Training which was organized during the NRA to protect standards for apprenticeship, then in danger of complete demoralization through tolerance for learners under codes and serious abuses which developed from those provisions. The committee has continued after the nullification of the NRA in connection with the National Youth Administration. The work of the committee had to do with maintaining standards for apprenticeship and with organizing sponsoring committees for specific projects on the principle of participation for those directly concerned—the union, the employers, and educators.

"H. R. 7274, introduced by Representative Fitzgerald, authorizes the Secretary of Labor to take over and continue the work of this committee, or—in the language of the law—to formulate and promote the furtherance of labor standards necessary to safeguard the welfare of apprentices, to extend the application of such standards by encouraging the inclusion thereof in contracts of apprenticeship, to bring together employers and labor for the formulation of programs of apprenticeship, to cooperate with state agencies engaged in the formation and promotion of standards of apprenticeship, and to cooperate with the National Youth Administration and with the Office of Education of the Department of the Interior in accordance with sectoin 6 of the Act of February 23, 1917, as amended by Executive Order No. 6166, June 10, 1933.

"This jurisdiction, of course, does not extend to the field of instruction which remains with the Office of Education."

State Legislation.—The convention adopted a resolution urging Congress to provide the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship Training "with sufficient funds to permit the extension of its services to areas not now being reached," and urged State federations of labor "to secure the passage of State legislation on apprenticeship setting up machinery in the State Labor Departments to implement the federal standards."

In adopting the resolution the convention declared that it did so "with the understanding that apprentice training will continue to be in conformity with the rules and requirements of the international and national unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor."

B

BACON-DAVIS ACT.

Enforcement.—A resolution placing enforcement of the Bacon-Davis Act and other Federal laws pertaining to hours and wages affecting labor under the Department of Labor was referred by the convention to the AFL Executive Council for "careful consideration."

The resolution stated that although the Bacon-Davis Act and other Federal hours and wages laws were intended "to cover all departments of the United States Government wherever appropriations of money in whole or in part affected such work coming under said law," nevertheless, "during the last two sessions of Congress emergency measures have been passed creating separate funds and carrying with them certain rules and regulations not bound by the above laws, which render them almost useless insofar as the Secretary of Labor's office is concerned." To correct this condition the resolution asked for the enactment of a Federal law "outlawing all emergency appropriations of money insofar as the enforcement of the determination of hours, wages and working conditions is concerned, and to have the enforcement of regulations thereto placed under the Department of Labor, a regularly constituted Department of the United States Government."

BICYCLES.

Foreign-Made.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council with instruction "that it give publicity to every condition disadvantageously affecting American wage earners," a resolution charging that bicycles made in Japan at a cost of 40 per cent below the cost of domestic bicycles are being offered for sale at "ridiculously low prices" in the United States, and that "Japan and some European countries are assembling bicycles with some parts made by American manufacturers, together with foreign parts under the guise of American-made goods, selling their products at 25 per cent lower than manufacturers of this country can produce the finished products," and demanding "that the officials of this Government force offending countries to make their products more conspicuous by labeling same so the consuming public can readily see where their purchase is made."

In referring the resolution to the AFL Executive Council the convention declared that "the American Federation of Labor has invariably favored protection of home industry and the maintenance of the American standard of wages," and "believes that the purchasing power of American citizens should be used to purchase American-made products."

BLUE CARD UNION OF ZINC AND LEAD MINE, MILL AND SMELTER WORKERS.

Affiliation With the American Federation of Labor.—The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in issuing a charter to a substantial group of zinc and lead miners employed in the metal mines of the Tri-District in Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas, under the title "Blue Card Union of Zinc and Lead Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers." In its report to the convention regarding the charter the Executive Council said it "decided that inasmuch as the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers International Union had severed its relationship with the American Federation of Labor and had accepted membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization, the Council could with perfect propriety respond favorably to the application of these metal miners for affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

"The affiliation of this group with the American Federation of Labor has proved to be both helpful and satisfactory to all concerned. We are confident that through said affiliation and the establishment of a cooperative relationship, that the economic and industrial interests of these metal miners can be promoted in a most substantial and satisfactory way."

BREWERY WORKERS INJUNCTION SUIT AGAINST AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND TEAMSTERS BROTHERHOOD.

The convention approved the report of the AFL Executive Council regarding the injunction proceedings instituted by the International Union of Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers of America designed to enjoin the officers and Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America from enforcing a jurisdiction decision made by the AFL Council and subsequently ratified by an AFL convention.

The Executive Council reported to the convention that the suit was "a unwarranted and unprecedented event in the annals of the American Federation of Labor. It is an occurrence which involves not only one of our affiliated international unions, but embraces as well a procedure designed seriously to impair for all time allied and federated trade unionism in America. The situation presented, if successful, is designed to bring the regulation and control of allied and federated trade and labor unions, as symbolized by the American Federation of Labor for the past 50 years or more, definitely within the realm of the equity powers of our courts. * * *

"The novelty and peculiarity of this appeal to the courts is particularly emphasized in that the complainant international union has not only profited by the authority and procedure of the A. F. of L. it would now challenge but the record is replete and complete of like decisions rendered by A. F. of L. conventions affecting other organizations and wherein this complainant international union participated by vote as well as by voice.

"By this complaint the American labor movement is placed in a most unfortunate light before the general public. On the one hand it is alleged the A. F. of L. is not alert to changing conditions and the development of a new order. On the other hand, recourse is now had to the equity courts completely to restrain the A. F. of L. from dealing effectively with new situations and developments arising in our economic, social and political life.

"More important than all is the fact that if this petition for an injunction is allowed there will then have been established the opportunity of our equity courts to regulate and control the internal as well as the external relationships and activities of all of our organizations of labor. If successful, one of our affiliated international unions will have made possible a judicial review of all future activities of organized labor. In practical effect that which hostile employers have sought and failed to accomplish by means of proposed legislation for so many years will then have come to fruition and the fault will rest on the shoulders of one of our affiliated unions whose officials are unwilling to abide by decisions of the conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

"The Executive Council has taken adequate steps to meet the issues presented. It will leave no stone unturned to deal adequately with this latest and most dangerous attack on the principle of voluntarism as it relates to allied and federated trade and labor unionism. In that defense we are confident we shall have the united influence of all of organized labor throughout the land and quite regardless of character or form."

The convention also recommended that the AFL Executive Council "carry out the defense of the principles of the American Federation of Labor as indicated in this report, if compelled to defend the rights of labor in the equity courts to the utmost if no other course is left open to it."

BRITISH LABOR MOVEMENT.

Labor Problems.—A number of instructive features of the British Labor Movement were presented to the convention by John C. Little, one of the fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress, who discussed, from the viewpoint of British organized labor, economic recovery and trade union development, larger trade union reserves, more work for the jobless unemployment among older workers, wage changes, labor's preparations for the next slump in business which trade union leaders believe is impending, and peace and national defense.

Trade Union Finances.—The financial strength of organized labor in Great Britain was emphasized by Mr. Little. "Our trade unions as a whole," he said, "have now an annual income of approximately fifty million dollars and their reserves aggregate over 80 million dollars. These figures are significant when it is borne in mind that all our unions maintain a system of trade and friendly benefits representing cash returns to their members aggregating millions a year.

Trade Union Growth.—He also presented instructive figures regarding the growth of British trade unions. "The aggregate membership at December, 1936, represented in our Norwich Congress," he said, "exceeded four millions, organized in some 214 unions. This compares with an aggregate membership of about 3,600,000 in the previous year. Actually, within the last two years, membership of the unions affiliated to our Congress has risen by about a million new entrants. This organized host, represented by our Congress, is today quite four and a quarter million, embracing a very wide variety of industries, trades and professions."

White Collar Workers.—Two of the outstanding industrial problems confronting British trade unions, Mr. Little declared, is the "unionizing of what are called the white-collar or black-coated workers, who for a long time regarded trade unionism as a movement for manual wage earners only," and the deploring tendency of British employers to discriminate against older workers, especially manifested in the increased employment of younger work people. One of the remedies proposed by British organized labor for the increasing numbers of older people banned from employment is to raise the school leaving age, thus depriving certain employers of one avenue used by them to substitute young employees for older employees.

Wage Increases.—With regard to wages, Mr. Little said that in the last eight completed months of the present year official statistics showed that there was "an increase of approximately $2,425,000 in the weekly wage rates of some 3,920,000 wage earners," and that "in the corresponding eight months of 1936 the net increases in weekly wage rates of some 3¼ million work people amounted to $1,408,750."

Voluntary Principle.—Other aspects of the achievements and problems of organized labor in Great Britain were presented by William R. Townley, also a fraternal delegate from the British Trades Union Congress and president of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operators, who emphasized the voluntary basis of British organized labor. "Our trade unions are essentially voluntary organizations," he said, "and their guiding principle has been for more than a hundred years to endeavor to regulate wages and conditions of employment by means of voluntary agreements with the employers. This system of voluntary agreements, and the joint negotiating machinery underlying it, is almost co-extensive today with British industrial organization. Practically all the industries and many of the professions today are regulated, and the conditions of service defined by negotiations of this character between the representatives of organizations of employers and employed.

"It is probably no exaggeration to say that three-fourths of the wage earning population in the country from which I come, live and work and earn under conditions which are determined by Trade Union agreements."

Social Security Legislation.—Mr. Townley also emphasized the point that social security legislation in Great Britain is the logical extension of the principle of trade union benefits traditional with organized labor and in essence merely gives legal effect and larger coverage to gains they have already been achieved by trade union action.

"We turned to Parliament," he said, "for the enactment of a comprehensive national system of social insurance. This system, embracing social provision for sickness, accident, unemployment, and old age, is embodied in Acts of Parliament; but these acts are, in literal historical truth, an extension of Trade Union practice over a long period of time. The origins of old-age pensions, workmen's compensation, unemployment benefit, health insurance, are to be found in the system of union trade and friendly benefits. This Trade Union system still exists. It is a general and permanent feature of Trade Union work. The national system of social insurance has not superseded the voluntary Trade Union provision for these purposes; it has extended, enlarged, and amplified, for the community as a whole, the provisions made by the Trade Unions for their own membership."

BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS (1937).

A succinct account of the proceedings of the 1937 session of the British Trades Union Congress was placed before the convention in the report of William C. Birthright and John B. Haggerty, fraternal delegates to the Congress from the American Federation of Labor. The report was made to the AFL Executive Council, who submitted it to the convention.

The Congress, which opened in Norwich on September 5, was composed, the report said, "of 620 delegates representing four million two hundred and fifty thousand members." The outstanding subjects discussed by the British Trades Unionists were the 40-hour week, armaments, Spanish War, the campaign of the Labor Party, and many other matters reported to the Congress by the General Council.

Aside from industrial problems and legislation, "the key debate of the Congress," the report said, "was the policy on government armament," which resulted in an overwhelming majority favoring the defense policy of the British Government.

One of the most important problems considered by the Congres was the outlook for the 40-hour week, which had been rejected by the British Government. In addition, the Congress approved unemployment funds, holidays with pay for all industrial workers and definite proposals for the improvement of factory legislation, national health insurance, workmen's compensation and protection of the workers against industrial diseases.

The fraternal delegates addressed the Congress on September 7, extending the greetings of the American Federation of Labor and its officers. "The General Council," the report concluded, "gave a dinner in honor of all fraternal delegates and every effort was made to make our visit a pleasant one."

BROWN DERBY CORPORATION.

Industrial Relations.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution urging the American Federation of Labor to place the Brown Derby Corporation of Hollywood, California, on the official "We Do Not Patronize List." The resolution alleged that after the Los Angeles Locals of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International Alliance and Bartenders League of America had organized the employees of the Brown Derby Restaurants in Los Angeles, Hollywood and Beverly Hills, California, "the management of these concerns refused to recognize the Culinary Workers Union, forced the union to call their employees out on strike on August 6, 1937, and placed the firm on the official unfair list of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council." The resolution also declared that "the Brown Derby restaurants are receiving national advertising due to the fact that many world-famous people, members of organized labor, formerly patronized these restaurants."

The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council use every effort possible to adjust this controversy.

BUILDING INDUSTRY.

Stability.—The convention declared "the building industry is still the most fluctuating and unstable industry in the United States" and that "this acute uncertainty of employment on private building operations not only results in great hardships for skilled building trades, mechanics and enormous difficulties for building trades unions, but also seriously undermines any possibility of continued national prosperity." In this connection the convention called attention to the existence of two federal agencies, the Public Works Administration and the new United States Housing Authority, which, if they were so instructed and empowered by Congress, could develop and carry out a planned long-term construction program which would go far toward stabilizing operations in the building industry."

To meet adequately this emergency the convention requested the Congress of the United States, "in order to promote stability of the employment in the building industry and forestall and alleviate future depression" to take the following legislative steps:

"1. Establish the Public Works Admintration, as well as the United States Housing Authority, as a permanent agency of the Federal Government;

"2. Establish a special fund or authorize special bond issues, in addition to their regular and normal funds, which shall be available to these two agencies for making loans and grants on additional construction projects, in periods when employment in the building industry shows positive signs of a serious decline;

"3. Instruct the Public Works Administration and the U. S. Housing Authority to develop long-term programs, and make plans and prepare projects at least three years in advance of normal construction schedules, in order to be ready greatly to increase construction activity in the United States at short notice in an emergency, and thus forestall any such disastrous stoppage in building trades employment as that which has impeded national prosperity throughout the past eight years."

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT.

Progress.—The convention approved the AFL Executive Council's report on the progress of the Building and Construction Trades Department during the year, which revealed that although the building program has not been extensive, "all affiliated unions show increased membership and satisfactory financial condition." The convention noted the cooperation of the Department with the Legislative Committee of the American Federation of Labor with regard to bills affecting labor in the Congress of the United States and recommended "a continuance of this commendable relationship."

The convention also approved the work of the unions affiliated with the Department in dealing "effectively with all dual union efforts to split their ranks." On this subject the AFL Executive Council made the following report regarding the disruptive efforts of the Committee for Industrial Organization in the building trades:

"The C. I. O. has directed its activities against the building tradesmen and laborers; several attempts have been made to establish C. I. O. local unions and to take over local unions chartered by national and international organizations affiliated with the Building and Construction Trades Department. All of these activities have been met with sufficient opposition to defeat the aims and objects of the C. I. O., which were to disrupt the craft organizations."

BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT.

Change of Title.—Noting that the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor in convention at Tampa, Florida, November, 1936, had changed the name of the department to "Building and Construction Trades Department," and that the change in title had been approved by the AFL Executive Council, the convention also approved the "change of title with the distinct understanding that any substantiated attempt on the part of organizations now affiliated with the Building Trades Department to extend their jurisdiction because of the change in title, such action shall automatically restore the original name and title of this Department."

BUTTE CENTRAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.

Affiliation of Local Unions.—The convention concurred with a resolution fixing the representation of local unions in the Butte Central Trades and Labor Council of Silver Bow County and vicinity at two delegates from each union regardless of the union's membership, and urged all national and international unions and officers at the convention "to take steps to have their respective unions in Butte, Montana, to at once withdraw from the outlaw C. I. O. Council of Butte and become affiliated with the Butte Central Trades and Labor Council chartered by the A. F. of L., which will bring about the abolishment and disbanding of the C. I. O. Council, which will have only two unions left, which are strictly C. I. O. organizations, whom we can easily combat."

C

CANADIAN LABOR MOVEMENT.

An instructive account of current events in the organized labor movement of Canada was given to the convention in an address by Rod Plant, fraternal delegate from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and a member of the International Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators of America. In addition, he is a member of the Ontario Executive Committee of the Canadian Congress.

As an outstanding feature of the legislative program of the Canadian Congress, Mr. Plant cited the determined effort to secure legislation respecting the right to organize, a bill being drafted by the Executive Council on the subject and presented in eight of the nine Provinces.

"The bill aimed," he said, "to give positive legislation to the right of workers to organize, bargain collectively with employers through their Trade Union and duly elected Trade Union officers. It proposed to make it unlawful for employers or their agents to interfere with these rights, whether by intimidation, threat or loss of employment or actual loss of employment; or by threatening or imposing any pecuniary penalty with the object of preventing them from belonging to a Trade Union. Severe penalties were to be imposed for infractions of the law. We were successful in having the bill enacted in two of the provinces and while the measure of success was not what we had hoped, we were undaunted and will continue the battle until all Canadian workers are free to exercise their right to organize in the fullest sense."

Mr. Plant also reported that the unemployment question is still a serious problem in Canada. On this subject he said:

"While economic conditions in Canada have improved considerably during the past two or three years, unemployment still remains a problem and was again the subject of consideration at our recent convention when decisions were reached aimed towards its solution. Government statistics as of June 30th last, show there were still 900,851 on the relief rolls. This in a country of only 11,000,000 population. Of this total, 180,771 were classed as fully employable; 47,349 were classed as unemployable or of doubtful employability; 407,604 were classed as non-worker type or dependents and the remaining 265,127 were farm operators and their dependents. It is reasonable to assume that many of those classed as 'unemployable or of doubtful employability' became so during the period we are pleased to call the 'depression'."

CANADIAN TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF 1937.

A summary of the proceedings of the 1937 session of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, which convened at Ottawa on September 13, was given to the convention in the report made to the AFL Executive Council by R. A. Henning, fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor to the Canadian Congress, and submitted to the convention by the Council.

With regard to the strength of the Canadian Congress, Mr. Henning's report said that figures submitted to the Ottawa meeting disclosed a total membership of 140,953, an increase of more than 27,000 during the past year. This membership is distributed so as to represent 62 international unions and three national unions.

The Credentials Committee reported 467 credentials representing delegates from all basic industries.

In view of the increase of injunctions in industrial disputes, the Executive Council of the Congress, the report said, "was instructed to draft a bill for presentation to the various provincial legislatures similar to the British law in respect to injunctions in industrial disputes and laws of a like character in the United States."

Moreover, in view of the recent attacks on fundamental liberties, in various parts of Canada, the Congress instructed the Executive Council and provincial committees "to seek repeal of all laws which have been enacted infringing upon the right of freedom of speech, press and assemblage."

The convention opposed "independent labor political action" and reaffirmed its continuation as a nonpartisan association independent of any and all labor parties.

In addition the convention nonconcurred in a resolution holding that "in the event of war Canadian workers should declare a general strike," but adopted a report which declared "that before Canada could involve the nation into war a referendum vote of the people be taken."

The Congress also recommended that "the export of war munitions and materials be placed under Government control through the League of Nations."

CHAIN STORE INVESTIGATION.

The convention recommended that the President and members of the AFL Executive Council use every effort to have the United States Senate conduct a thorough investigation of the alleged policy of shoe chain stores to force employers to accept a price for their products which prevents the employers of organized shoe workers from paying decent wages to their employes and directed the Council to endeavor to secure the enactment of national legislation which will eliminate the continuance of this detrimental chain store influence on the wages paid to American shoe workers.

The convention was informed that in Haverhill, Mass., "some 10,000 shoe workers are now being paid a low rate of wages, due to the drive by the chain store, high powered buyers to force the workers to buy their product. These chain store buyers shop around from one town to another and on many occasions they buy the entire output of factories, and they dictate low prices to the manufacturers. These organized chain store outfits can force down prices all over the nation and then force manufacturers to make shoes at these prices or go out of business."

CHILD LABOR.

The convention reaffirmed its militant support of the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution. The amendment provides that "the Congress shall have power to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age," and that "the power of the several States is unimpaired by this article except that the operation of State laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by the Congress."

The AFL Executive Council reported to the convention that ratification by eight more States is necessary to bring the number up to the required thirty-six and that the following States have not ratified the amendment: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia.

To meet the condition in the nonratifying States the convention recommended that all labor organizations in those States "submit to all candidates in the various legislatures the question: 'Will you, if elected, vote to ratify the Child Labor Amendment?'"

CIVIL LIBERTIES.

Illinois.—The convention authorized and directed the President of the American Federation of Labor to place the statement of Joseph Oznic, delegate of the Progressive Miners of America, delivered at the convention on October 13, "before the Senate Civil Liberties Committee and there demand an investigation by that committee of the alleged destruction of civil liberties in the State of Illinois."

CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE.

The convention instructed its officers "to use their influence so that the La Follette Committee on Civil Liberties may continue its work."

CLEANING AND DYE HOUSE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

A. F. of L. Charter.—The action of the AFL Executive Council in granting an international charter to the International Association of Cleaning and Dye House Workers was approved by the convention. The Executive Council reported that jurisdiction was granted to the Cleaning and Dye House Workers "over those employed as dry cleaners, dry cleaning spotters, dry cleaning pressers, dye cleaning checkers, dry cleaning markers, dry cleaning packers, dry cleaning washers, and dyers employed in dry cleaning establishments, and all other persons employed in dry cleaning establishments who work on dry cleaned garments."

The Council added that "this international organization has made substantial progress in the organization of workers who come under its jurisdiction," and said that "the Executive Council and the American Federation of Labor are cooperating fully with the officers and members of this International Association in carrying on organizing work among those employed in the cleaing and dyeing industry."

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

The importance of collective bargaining as a basic principle in the procedure of the American Federation of Labor was stressed in an address before the convention by Sol R. Rosenblatt, who was introduced by President Green as a man who "endeared himself to the hearts of American labor when he served with distinction and fairness as an administrator during the days of the NRA, "when he functioned as the 'head of the Code Division which affected the amusement industry." At present, Mr. Green said, he is serving "as an impartial chairman of the cloak industry in New York City."

"The fruit of collective bargaining is an agreement," Mr. Rosenblatt said, "Stripped of all other details, and reduced to its bare skeleton, a collective agreement defines the terms and conditions upon which an employe agrees to work for an employer.

"I submit to you that once that agreement is made, that during its term the responsibility of labor is just as great as the responsibility of the employer, in seeing to it that it is carefully and faithfully observed.

"Ordinary contracts relating to other matters than a collective labor agreement are often broken, and the courts are filled with lawsuits arising from the breach of those agreements, but a collective labor agreement, in my opinion, is something more than an ordinary business contract — something more sanctified—something more holy—than a mere agreement under which goods are bought and sold.

"That collective agreement entails responsibility, not merely good intentions, but responsibility in its highest form. That collective agreement must not be interfered with. Its provisions are meant to be kept and its observance is required.

"When those conditions prevail—when agreements once made are performed—labor has discharged the responsibility which it owes to the employer."

COLONIAL PRESS.

Endorsement of Strike.—The convention concurred with a resolution endorsing the strike of 450 employes of the Colonial Press, Clinton, Mass., and pledged its moral support to end the "un-American conditions" which it was alleged prevailed in the company's plant.

The resolution charged that the employes "struck in protest against the intolerable wages, excessive hours and inhuman conditions under which they were employed," that "the president of the Colonial Press has attempted to operate under similar conditions in another State for a period of years, and attempting to use the same method of exploiting the workers, paying the lowest wages, working the longest hours—60 to 80 hours per week—and under conditions such as never existed in the printing industry," that the "printing trades unions of Boston and vicinity have endorsed the action of these workers and are rendering every possible financial and moral assistance to correct these rank un-American conditions," that the "international printing trades unions are contributing financial aid to these strikers," and that the "Board of Conciliation and Arbitration of the State of Massachusetts held a public hearing, and after weighing carefully all the testimony in this case placed the blame for the continuance of this strike upon the Colonial Press."

COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION.

Executive Council's Report.—The controversy of the American Federation of Labor with the Committee for Industrial Organization, ten of whose component unions were suspended by the 1936 A. F. of L. convention for promoting an organization dual to the A. F. of L., came before the convention directly through the Executive Council's report, which, after a complete survey of the situation, submitted the following indictment and recommendation:

"No Manufacturers' Association or employers' organization, supplied with unlimited funds, moved by a desire to divide and conquer organized labor, could have launched such a campaign of division and destruction within the solid, united movement of Labor as has the Committee for Industrial Organization since it was formed on November 10, 1935. No split in the ranks of Labor could have been brought about by the most powerful of Manufacturers' Associations such as has been accomplished by the C. I. O. This is the great disservice rendered by the C. I. O. and this is the great injury which it has inflicted upon the working men and women of the Nation. * * *

Revocation of Suspended Unions' Charters

"The Executive Council feels that the time has arrived when the American Federation of Labor must meet the issue created by the Committee for Industrial Organization in a clear-cut and positive way. The interests of every national and international union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor must be protected and preserved. Confusion and misunderstanding regarding the relationship to the American Federation of Labor of organizations holding membership in the C. I. O. must be terminated. The issue which created the division within the ranks of Labor must be made clear.

"In order to accomplish this purpose the Executive Council recommends that in conformity with the law and the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor, the Convention confer upon the Executive Council authority and power to revoke the charters of the international unions holding membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization which were suspended by the Council on September 5, 1936, and affirmed by the Tampa Convention in November, 1936, as provided for in Section 12 of Article 9 of the Constitution."

Resolutions Urge Conventions and Referendum

The convention also had before it two resolutions relativev to the controversy.

One resolution declared that the "American Federation of Labor refuse to expel the C. I. O. unions and call a unity conference for the purpose of developing plans to project a referendum on industrial union organization of the mass production industries and the questions of the unity of the American Federation of Labor and C. I. O. so that the leaders i both camps may secure a clear mandate of action and policy from the organized workers in the nation as represented by the American Federation of Labor, the C. I. O. and such bona fide independent trade unions as may be invited to attend such a parley," and that "a committee should be appointed by both President Green of the American Federation of Labor and John L. Lewis, Chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, to plan the unity conference and the method and procedure of the referendum, for if unity is not worked for consciously, the country may witness a tragic, bloody, intra-organized labor civil war which will set back the cause of labor immeasurably."

The second resolution declared that "for the purpose of unifying and strengthening the American labor movement, the American Federation of Labor at its annual convention at Denver in 1937 go on record as favoring a national convention of all bona fide trade unions, including the American Federation of Labor, the Committee for Industrial Organization, the Railroad Brotherhoods and genuine independent unions, such convention to give consideration to the serious problem of creating a united labor movement satisfactory to all parties concerned."

Convention's Declaration

In its report to the convention the committee on resolutions recommended approval of the Executive Council's report and recommendations, commended the officers and Executive Council "for the forceful and faithful yet tolerant and sympathetic conduct pursued," in connection with the C. I. O. controversy, and, after a thorough discussion of the principles involved, and in lieu of the resolutions, submitted the following recommendations, which, at the conclusion of a discussion lasting nearly one day, were adopted by the convention by a vote of 25,616 to 1,227:

Peace Committee Continued

"With all of the facts in mind, and because we believe there is a great rank and file that ardently wishes to return to the fold of the American Federation of Labor, we recommend, first, that our special committee for peaceful negotiations be continued.

"We refused a year ago to take any irrevocable step against those unions which might seek to become re-united with the Federation. We hesitate today to take such action against those organizations within the C. I. O. that desire to preserve the unity of the movement and who may wish for re-affiliation.

Council Given Power to Revoke Charters

"Secondly, and with these same facts in mind, we recommend that the Executive Council be given full power as provided in Section 12, Article 9, of the Constitution to revoke the charters of any or all of the organizations which refuse to return to the ranks of our movement, so that this power may be used constitutionally and with discretion but without hesitation the moment its use becomes necessary, and we so direct the observance and enforcement of this procedure and requirement.

Political Strength Invoked Against C. I. O. Candidates

"Third, we recommend the enlargement and strengthening of our machinery of non-partisan political activities so that the political strength of the American Federation of Labor and its renewed determination to support its friends and defeat those in public office who would oppose its policies and programs will embrace all who would in any way favor, encourage or support the C. I. O.

No Submission to Dictatorship

"Fourth, we call upon all, whether among employers or among political leaders to have due regard for the condition that exists, for the facts we have presented, and that they choose for themselves which philosophy and which practices to support. We call upon them to decide whether to submit themselves to the evils of a dictatorship which is no less repugnant because it springs from greedy leaders of labor who have forsaken their trust.

"President Green said, in addressing the opening session of this convention, 'the hour has struck' and in full truth that is the inescapable and irrefutable fact. The hour for choice has struck. The hour to elect whether to walk freely or with head bowed in cowardly submission has struck for our workers and for our country.

Workers Mobilized for Labor Unity

"Finally, if, with all efforts proved unavailing, the die is cast for war against autocracy, against rebellion, against an alliance of American greed and alien communism, then we pledge our movement to bring to a quick and decisive close so far as lies within our power this internecine warfare. The nation must not be long punished by the appalling state of affairs created by the C. I. O. We shall, if need then be, marshal the forces of labor everywhere and to a degree and extent heretofore unknown and by such united and militant action we shall conquer where all appeal to reason has failed. We must and we will have freedom. We must and we will have one united labor movement. We must and we will stand true to the faith and in that faith we shall do the things marked out for us to do in order that American liberty and democracy may justify itself and pass its heritage down through time to the generations to come."

Conference Between Representatives of the American Federation of Labor and Representatives of the Committee for Industrial Organization.—The convention adopted unanimously the reply of the AFL Executive Council to a telegram received from Harvey Fremming, secretary pro tem of the Committee for Industrial Organization, advising that by direction of the C. I. O. he was extending an invitation for a committee of 100 from the American Federation of Labor to meet with a committee of 100

(Continued on Page 3)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 2)

from the Committee for Industrial Organization to consider the controversy between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O., ten of whose component unions were suspended by the 1936 convention of the American Federation of Labor for refusing to withdraw from the C. I. O., which the convention held was a dual organization established to oppose the majority decision reached by the A. F. of L. 1935 convention.

The Executive Council's reply declared that "our special committee clothed with full authority stands ready and willing and anxious to meet a like committee representative of any or all of the organizations associated with the Committee for Industrial Organization for the purpose of attaining the desired objectives of peace and unity in the ranks of organized labor and bringing again within the folds of the American Federation of Labor not only those organizations now suspended, or which have withdrawn, but likewise to bring into association with us all other labor unions and organizations of labor not now so affiliated."

With regard to the C. I. O. suggestion for a committee of 100 representatives on each side, making up a conference of 200, the Executive Council expressed the opinion that such a mass conference cannot "serve any useful or practical purpose," and preferred to regard the proposal "rather as an initial method of approach on the part of the Committee for Industrial Organization," adding:

"We therefore submit that we stand ready and willing, as hereinbefore indicated, to meet through the means of our special committee with a like representative committee of the organizations of any or all of the unions making up the conference of the Committee for Industrial Organization at such time and place as may be agreed upon, without prior commitment and for the purpose of reuniting the forces of labor under the banner of the American Federation of Labor and under such terms and conditions and policies and procedures as may be agreed to and prove acceptance to all."

"In so doing, we will assure organized labor as a whole not only the continued good will and support of all our citizens, so essential to the maintenance of our unions, but we will have contributed much in perpetuating the established democratic institutions of our land, now endangered on every hand by the dictatorships which rule outside of our borders and which threaten not only free labor but the remaining democracies of the world."

Dual Organization.—Added evidence of the usurpation of functions dual to the American Federation of Labor by the Committee for Industrial Organization, was revealed in the report of the AFL Executive Council, which the convention adopted.

"The leaders of the American Federation of Labor," the Council said, "were not deceived by the protestations made by the leaders of the dual C. I. O. movement that it was formed for the sole purpose of conducting an educational and organizing campaign among the unorganized employed in mass production industries. Its underlying motives to divide, disrupt and destroy the American Federation of Labor have become clearly understood as the campaign of disruption unfolded itself.

"The leader of the C. I. O. movement was driven forward in the execution of his plans to establish a dual and rival movement, by the force of a consuming ambition to gain control of the organized labor movement and to establish his own independent political party. We understood all this at the beginning; it is proven now.

"Definite and direct attempts have been made to invade the jurisdiction of bona fide international unions chartered by the American Federation of Labor. The agents and organizers of the Committee for Industrial Organization have carried on disrupting campaigns among well organized local unions chartered by these international unions which have functioned for many years. Organizations have been raided and some have been completely destroyed. The forces of Labor in many localities have become divided into warring camps.

"The drive of the C. I. O. has been more largely against the organized workers who were affiliated with the American Federation than in any other field. They have invaded maritime organizations, building trades, metal trades, amusement trades, catering trades, organizations of government employes, state federations of labor, city central labor unions and local federal labor unions.

"No organized unit connected with the American Federation of Labor has been spared. The raiding, ripping, tearing process of the Committee for Industrial Organization has been carried forward among organizations firmly established and chartered by the American Federation of Labor in every state, city and community throughout the country. It has been a campaign of attempted disruption. Open warfare has been waged by the Committee for Industrial Organization against the American Federation of Labor."

Funds of Federal Labor Union No. 18456 Raided.—A terse account of the raid on the treasury of Federal Labor Union No. 18456, Kenosha, Wisconsin, by a disloyal C. I. O. group was presented to the convention by Judge Joseph Padway, of Milwaukee, who acted as legal representative of the American Federation of Labor in this case. Officials of the C. I. O. group were expelled from the union and the charter suspended but not before they had seized $15,000 of the union's funds, and taken the money by automobile to Waukegan, Illinois, and deposited it in a box in a bank.

Following a suit by the American Federation of Labor to regain the treasury of the union, a judge in Kenosha ordered the C. I. O. adherents to deposit the funds with the Clerk of the Court under penalty of punishment for contempt. The C. I. O. men obeyed the mandate of the court and ultimately the $15,000 was returned to the re-chartered A. F. of L. union.

Invasion of Jurisdiction of A. F. of L. Unions on Pacific Coast.—The convention adopted a firmly-worded resolution denouncing the seizure by C. I. O. longshoremen's groups of hiring halls and funds of unions on the Pacific Coast making up District No. 38, International Longshoremen's Association, and pledged the moral influence of all international unions having locals in Pacific Coast seaport cities in support of the loyal Longshoremen's unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The resolution charged that certain locals which seceded from District No. 38 of the Longshoremen's Association and affiliated with the C. I. O. "seized control" of the hiring halls and the funds of the local Longshoremen Unions in San Pedro and San Francisco, both the halls and the funds being the property of District No. 38 of the International Longshoremen's Association.

Raids on Treasuries of A. F. of L. Unions.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council reported to the convention that in pursuit of its "raiding policy" among organizations firmly established and chartered by the American Federation of Labor "the funds, property and records of bona fide American Federation of Labor unions have been seized by the agents of the Committee for Industrial Organization. These funds which were collected by unions while functioning as American Federation of Labor organizations and which under the laws of the Federation were a part of the American Federation of Labor's property, were illegally taken and used by the C. I. O. and by organizations affiliated with it."

Violence Against A. F. of L. Unions in San Francisco.—A plainly worded account of the violence used by C. I. O. adherents in San Francisco against locals of the Longshoremen's Association, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, was given to the convention by Edward D. Vandeleur, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor and a delegate to the convention from that organization. Positively denying that the Longshoremen are with the C. I. O., Mr. Vandeleur said:

"In San Francisco over fifty per cent of the Longshoremen want to stay with the American Federation of Labor, but, due to the cut-throats that are guiding the destinies of the C. I. O., they are fearful of what would happen to them if they do not sign up with the C. I. O. I am appealing to this convention to take action and give those men on the waterfront the opportunity to remain with the American Federation of Labor.

"We have opened offices in San Francisco and San Pedro to enroll those who wish to remain with us. What happens? The moment one of them goes to enroll he is taken out and given a beating. We will fight and fight hard against that."

In addition, Mr. Vandeleur charged that a C. I. O. representative in San Francisco enrolled in a cannery workers union "some two thousand unfortunate workers, who did not even know how to write their own names, to go to Alaska to can salmon. He took them there and gave them nothing. He deliberately stole between fifty and sixty thousand dollars from those poor workers and gave them nothing in return."

COMMUNISM.

Communism and Fascism were strongly condemned before the convention in an address by Father J. W. Maguire, head of Saint Viator's College at Kankakee, Illinois, who was introduced by President Green as "a student of economics and sociology," who "understands our labor problems."

"If we look at the picture of the world today," Father Maguire said, "we see that Europe is torn by the twin dangers of Communism and Fascism, and under Fascism I include the German variety of Nazism. Both these are twin menaces to human liberty, and I personally am not able to make any great distinction between the ultimate results. Communism is the dictatorship of the proletariat class and state totalitarianism, Fascism means the dominance of the bourgeois class with the state totalitarianism. It means that we can still, under the intructions of American democracy, receive a reasonable degree of economic and social justice if we proceed in a democratic way.

"The state, of course, that either through Fascism or through Communism compels industry to furnish every man with a livelihood and to regulate the great problems of industry. The democratic way is to have industry regulate its troubles itself."

CONNERY, WILLIAM P., JR.

Memorial.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution calling for the participation of national and international unions in a permanent memorial to the late representative in Congress, William P. Connery, Jr., for such action as the Council "may be prompted to make when more fully advised what the special committee of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor has done in the matter."

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR—AMENDMENTS.

Central Labor Unions—Delegates.—The convention amended Section 1 of Article XIII of the A. F. of L. constitution by conferring on the President or the Executive Council power to revoke charters of central labor unions and other central bodies of delegates under certain circumstances. The section as amended reads:

"Section 1. No Central Labor Union, or any other central body of delegates, shall admit to or retain in their councils delegates from any local organization that owes its allegiance to any other body, National or International, hostile to any affiliated organization or that has been suspended or expelled by, or not connected with, a National or International organization of their trade herein affiliated, nor are delegates to be seated from locals of National or International organizations which are not affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, under penalty of having their charter revoked for violation of their charter, by the President or the Executive Council, subject to appeal to the next Convention."

Central Labor Unions—Strikes.—The convention amended Section 5 of Article XII of the A. F. of L. constitution by conferring on the President or the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. authority to revoke the charter of a central labor union or other central body of delegates for violating the provision of this section regarding ordering of strikes or taking strike votes. The section as amended reads:

"Section 5. No Central Labor Union, or other central body of delegates, shall have the authority or power to order any organization, affiliated with such Central Labor Union, or other central labor body, to strike, or to take a strike vote, where such organization has a national organization, until the proper authorities of such National or International organization have been consulted and agreed to such action. A violation of this law shall be sufficient cause for the President or the Executive Council to revoke the charter."

Craft and Industrial Unions.—Section 2 of Article XI of the A. F. of L. constitution includes the following among the objects of the American Federation of Labor: "The establishment of national and international trade unions based upon a strict recognition of the autonomy of each trade, and the promotion and advancement of such bodies." The convention disapproved a resolution which proposed to amend Section 2 to read as follows:

"The establishment of national and industrial trade unions based upon either craft or industrial lines of organization as conditions surrounding the craft or industry may require and the Executive Council is hereby empowered to determine the jurisdiction of any application for charter, either from craft or from industrial organizations and grant to them a charter of affiliation to this Federation of Labor as conditions require."

Departments.—The convention non-concurred with a resolution proposing to amend Section 3 of Article XI of the A. F. of L. constitution, regarding the establishment of departments by adding the following sentence: "But not in conflict with the laws or policies of national or international unions which are affiliated with said departments," so that the proposed amended section would read:

"The establishment of departments composed of national or international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, of the same industry, and which departments shall be governed in conformity with the laws of the American Federation of Labor, but not in conflict with the laws or policies of national or international unions which are affiliated with said departments."

Dues and Assessments—Suspension of Organizations for Non-payment.—The convention amended the constitution by adding to the provision fixing suspension as the penalty for an organization being three months in arrears for not paying its per capita tax the added stipulation that suspension shall also take effect for similar arrearages in the payment of "assessment or assessments when due and payable."

Executive Council—Authority to Enforce A. F. of L. Constitution and Laws.—The convention amended Section 13, Article IX by conferring certain authority upon the A. F. of L. Executive Council in regard to enforcing the constitution, laws, declarations, and decisions of A. F. of L. conventions and to take certain actions and make certain decisions during the interim of conventions. The new section reads as follows:

"Section 13. The Executive Council shall be authorized and empowered to take such actions and render such decisions as may be necessary to carry out fully and adequately all provisions contained in the constitution and general laws as well as declarations and decisions of the conventions and it shall be authorized and empowered to take such further actions and render such further decisions during the interim of conventions as may become necessary to safeguard and promote the best interest of the Federation and of all its affiliated unions."

Executive Council—Authority to Issue Charters to Federal Labor Unions and Revoke Charters of National and International Unions.—The convention non-concurred with a resolution which proposed to amend Section 11, Article IX of the A. F. of L. constitution with regard to the issuance of charters by the A. F. of L. Executive Council to federal labor unions, the jurisdiction of federal labor unions, and the suspension or expulsion of national or international unions and the revocation of certificates of affiliation. The resolution which the convention disapproved read as follows:

"Sec. 11. The Executive Council shall not grant a charter to a federal labor union where the workers are engaged in work designated as coming within the jurisdiction of any national or international union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

"The jurisdiction of any federal labor union as defined in its charter shall be fully described in the reports by the Executive Council to the next succeeding convention.

"Under no circumstance or condition shall the Executive Council suspend or expel a national or international union or revoke a certificate of affiliation; the Executive Council shall render no decision affecting the jurisdiction or autonomy of any national or international union unless the issue is submitted by mutual agreement of the unions involved. The Executive Council may entertain charges and complaints against national and international unions and may conduct hearings and investigations only for the purpose of formulating its recommendations to a convention and for no other purpose."

Executive Council—Revocation of Charters.—The convention non-concurred with a resolution proposing to amend Section 12 of Article IX of the A. F. of L. constitution, concerning the authority of the A. F. of L. Executive Council to revoke the charter of an affiliated national or international union when ordered by a two-thirds majority of an A. F. of L. convention, by amending the section to read as follows:

"Sec. 12. The relationship of national and international unions to the American Federation of Labor is that of affiliation, which relationship may be canceled only by a two-thirds roll call vote in a regular convention of the American Federation of Labor. No action shall be taken by either the Executive Council or a convention of the American Federation of Labor which limits, restricts, abridges or interferes with the autonomous rights and privileges of national and international unions. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor shall have authority to issue certificates of affiliation to national and international unions but such certificates shall not be final until reported to and approved by the next succeeding convention of the American Federation of Labor."

Local Central Bodies—Representation of Local Unions.—The convention non-concurred in the following amendment to Section 2, of Article XI of the A. F. of L. constitution designed to remedy conditions whereby those organizations who do not separate their larger local unions into smaller units are placed at a disadvantage with those who do follow this practice, and, also, to meet conditions whereby undue representation is accorded to the very small organizations as compared to representation allowed to larger local unions:

"Upon roll call if requested by at least one-tenth of the total number of delegates present, each delegate shall cast one-twelfth vote for each hundred members, or major fraction thereof which he represents and as evidenced by the average per capita tax paid by his local union during the preceding twelve month period."

Objects.—The convention non-concurred with a resolution which proposed to amend Section 1 of Article II of the constitution of the American Federation of Labor (objects) by substituting the following sections for sections 1, 2, 4, and 5:

Sec. 1. The object of this Federation shall be:

"(a) To formulate national labor policies to be recommended to the members of national and international unions.

"(b) To promote and support legislation in behalf of labor;

"(c) To establish and maintain an adequate legal department to protect the right to organize and keep unimpaired the right to strike;

"(d) To organize and supervise the affairs of state and provincial federations of labor and city central bodies to the end that such bodies chartered by the American Federation of Labor do not engage in improper activity or exceed the authority delegated to them;

"(e) To organize and administer the affairs of federal labor unions to be composed of workers outside the exercised scope of jurisdiction of existing national and international unions;

"(f) To assist and cooperate with national and international unions when requested by such unions;

"(g) To aid and encourage the sale of union label goods;

"(h) To influence public opinion, by peaceful and legal methods in favor of organized labor;

"(i) To aid and encourage the labor press of America;

"(j To secure affiliation with the American Federation of Labor of all organized labor bodies based upon a strict recognition of the complete autonomy of each national and international union;

"(k) To offer friendly offices and advice, for adjusting differences between national and international unions when requested to do so;

"(l) To render and enforce decisions involving jurisdiction of national or international unions only when the difference is submitted by mutual agreement between the unions involved."

President—Authority to Discipline State Federations of Labor, City Central Labor Unions, Local and Federal Labor Unions.—The convention amended the constitution by giving the President of the A. F. of L. certain power with regard to disciplining state federations of labor, city central labor unions, and local and federal labor unions. The new section reads as follows:

"Section 6. The President shall be authorized and empowered to discipline State Federations of Labor, City Central Labor Unions, and Local and Federal Labor Unions, including authority to suspend and/or expel any officer or member thereof, and/or to suspend and/or revoke their charter subject first to an appeal to the Executive Council and thereafter to the next regular convention immediately following. The President with the approval of the Executive Council shall likewise have authority and be empowered to safeguard and protect and if necessary take immediate charge of all equities and properties, tangible or intangible, acquired and/or possessed by State Federations of Labor, City Central Labor Unions and Local and Federal Labor Unions or their subsidiaries or agents, whenever or however such equities and/or properties may be jeopardized through disobedience to the constitution, laws, rules and requirements of the American Federation of Labor or for any other reason or cause deemed imperative by the President and the Executive Council, and shall hold same in trust as provided by the laws of the American Federation of Labor."

Representation of State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies in A. F. of L. Convention Bodies.—The convention disapproved a resolution proposing to change the A. F. of L. constitution which stipulates that all state federations of labor and central labor bodies shall have one delegate each to represent them in A. F. of L. conventions, for a system based on proportional representation.

Revenue.—The convention amended the constitution to provide that in addition to the revenue already established by the per capita tax and initiation fees, "revenue may also be derived from assessments when or as ordered by a majority vote of a convention."

Special Conventions.—The convention amended the A. F. of L. constitution by providing that "special conventions may be called by direction of a regular convention, by order of the Executive Council, or on request of National and International Unions representing a majority of the total membership of the American Federation of Labor, as evidenced by the records of the Secretary-Treasurer to the last regular convention."

The amendment also provided that "special conventions shall not be called unless at least 30 days' notice of such special convention together with statement of particular subject or subjects to be considered has been given to all affiliated organizations," that "representation to special conventions shall be on the same basis and subject to like qualifications and procedure governing regular conventions," and that "special conventions shall be clothed with like authority and power conferred upon regular conventions. Its decisions shall be equally binding and it shall be governed by the same procedure applicable to regular conventions; however, such special conventions shall be limited solely to the subject or subjects specifically and definitely indicated in the call for such special convention."

Special Conventions—Authority to Revoke Charters.—The convention amended Section 12 of Article IX of the constitution so as to give special conventions the same authority as regular conventions with regard to the revocation of charters. The amended section reads:

"Section 12. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor shall only have power to revoke the charter of an affiliated National or International Union when the revocation has been ordered by a two-thirds majority of a regular or special convention of the American Federation of Labor, by a roll-call vote."

CONSUMERS COOPERATION.

Consumers Cooperation was endorsed by the convention as a method of protecting the working people against extortionate prices. "When our wage gains are steadily drained away from us by unnecessary price increases to create high profits and dividends for the few," the convention said, "progress for the masses of under-privileged is at a minimum." At the same time the convention stressed the importance of union recognition by cooperatives.

"We heartily endorse Rochedale consumers cooperation in principle," the convention declared. "Experience has proved, however, that certain safeguards need careful consideration if wage earners in this country are to put their faith in consumers' cooperation as a means of protecting themselves from price exploitation.

"There is the important question of union recognition by cooperatives in this country. It is one of the basic principles of genuine Rochedale cooperation to insist on fair labor standards for employees of cooperatives and to urge them to join trade unions. In Great Britain all employees of cooperatives are union members. The principle of organization both as producers and as consumers is basic—organization as producers in trade unions and as consumers in cooperatives. Our incomes must be protected both when we earn them and when we spend them if we are to make the greatest possible progress in raising living standards. Without this twofold protection there is dangerous opportunity in any society for one group to discriminate against another.'

"Some cooperatives in the United States recognize this vital principle, but many have as yet failed to grasp the basic function of trade union organization in cooperative enterprise. This is particularly true among farm groups, some of whom have refused to deal with trade unions. If workers are to look to the cooperative movement in the United States as a way to better distribution of income, cooperatives must recognize trade unions, bargain collectively with them and patronize the union label.

"We believe that the form of business enterprise which is most effective in lifting the living standards of the masses should succeed in this country. In many instances consumers' cooperatives have so far excelled private business in this respect in American communities that they have supplanted private concerns. When this occurs, the cooperative has a responsibility for the workers who lose their employment. This can often be met by giving them work in the cooperative."

CONVENTION CITY, 1938.

Houston, Texas, was selected as the city for the 1938 convention of the American Federation of Labor.

CONVICT LABOR.

State-Use System.—The convention urged state federations of labor in the 18 States that are still selling their prison-made products on the open market in competition with those produced by free labor to mobilize all their forces to secure the enactment of the State-use system "for the purpose of abolishing the exploitation of prisoners by private capital under prison labor contract systems."

CREDIT UNIONS.

The convention instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to make the most thorough study possible of the several types of credit unions which have come into existence so that the next convention of the American Federation of Labor may have compiled for its use the information which is essential before a convention of the American Federation of Labor makes any definite announcement of policy upon the subject of credit unions."

CROSLEY RADIO CORPORATION.

Industrial Relations.—The convention non-concurred in a resolution which charged that the Crosley Radio Corporation had let the contract for erecting a large building at Richmond, Indiana, to a contracting company which "has never recognized organized labor," and that the corporation had repeatedly refused to negotiate agreements with the Operating Engineers Union, the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union and the Structural Steel and Iron Workers Union. The resolution asked "that the Crosley Radio Corporation be placed unfair to all crafts affiliated with the Indiana State Building Trades Council."

The Committee on Industrial Relations reported that the Crosley Radio Corporation "have at the present time a number of contracts with the American Federation of Labor and have been for a number of years fair in their attitude towards the trade union movement." In addition, the convention was reliably informed that in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Crosley Radio Corporation "built offices that were 100 per cent union," and that since that time a closed shop contract had been negotiated involving approximately 3,000 members, "with a 100 per cent closed union shop." Moreover, it was claimed that "the Cincinnati area 'has signed 40 closed shop contracts, involving 27,000 members of the American ederation of Labor," and that the Crosley Radio Corporation is one of the firms signing the closed shop contract.

D

DECEASED TRADE UNION MEMBERS.

In conformity with its annual custom the delegates to the convention and visitors rose and remained standing in silence for a moment in tribute to the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor and organizations affiliated with it who have died since the 1936 convention. The names of 34 men and women who had performed important functions in the organized labor movement were read to the convention by Secretary-Treasurer Morrison, with the dates of their death.

DELEGATES.

The convention adopted the report of the Credentials Committee recommending that 464 delegates be seated. This number included 256 delegates from national and international unions, four delegates from A. F. of L. Departments, 34 delegates from State federations of labor, 103 delegates from central labor unions, 64 delegates from trade and federal labor unions, and three delegates from fraternal organizations (British Trades Union Congress and Trades and Labor Congress of Canada).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Per Diem Wage Earners.—The convention approved the action of the United States Senate striking from the District of Columbia Appropriation Bill the amendment of Representative Collins of Mississippi, adopted by the House of Representatives, to deprive per diem employees of the Government of the District of Columbia of leave and holiday pay and confine their compensation to pay for only time actually worked. The A. F. of L. Executive Council told the convention that the Collins Amendment "would have deprived 3,300 employees, most of them mechanics and laborers employed by the District of Columbia, of 26 days annual leave, 15 days sick leave and pay for seven legal holidays," and "would also have been a precedent that would have been extended to employees in the navy yards, arsenals and the Panama Canal." The convention condemned the principle of the Collins Amendment as "pernicious legislation," which if enacted, would have been a dangerous precedent for wage earners in other government establishments and instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to continue protection of the interests of government per diem workers."

DOLL AND TOY WORKERS.

National Council.—The convention concurred in the report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council that it was neither feasible nor practical to call a conference and organize a national council composed of unions of workers in the doll and toy industry. The Council said that organizing work was being carried on in the doll and toy industry and that when the proper time arrived for forming a national council composed of federal labor unions the Executive Council would call a conference to organize such national council.

E

EDUCATION.

Federal Grants.—The convention stressed the point that until we have a clear picture of the adequacy of our present educational institutions we are not in a position to make intelligent Federal grants and for this reason approved the decision of the President's Advisory Commission on Education, which was created to review vocational education, to inquire into the basis upon which Federal funds could be granted to State educational agencies.

"Unless reasonable standards of service are the conditions of Federal grants," the convention declared, "they will only perpetuate inadequate educational opportunities. On the other hand, we cannot build up bureaucratic control over education. Free institutions are largely tied up with educational freedom for those who would serve in the teaching profession. Wisdom in living is a pre-requisite to teaching others. This, in addition to mastering of skills and intellectual disciplines will make for higher standards of educational leadership necessary to the maintenance of educational freedom.

"Labor wishes to add a note of warning [illegible] which it has earned the right by its consistent sponsorship of our public school system. It is this—determination of the objectives of education lies with the free citizens of this country—not with the educational profession. Nothing will bring our public school system into disrepute more quickly than organization of the teaching profession to control educational policies and legislation."

President's Advisory Committee.—Acting on the allegation that "the one million classroom teachers of the country are not adequately represented on the Special Committee appointed by the President of the United States," the convention recommended "that this be inquired into by the officers of the American Federation of Labor and that they be empowered to take such action as their inquiry will warrant."

ETHIOPIA.

The convention referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council "with instructions to do all that lies within its power to be of assistance to the people of Ethiopia in their effort to regain their country and their right to be governed by a ruler of their own choosing," a resolution "condemning the occupation of Ethiopa by blood and iron and the unspeakable and barbarous mowing down of innocent Ethiopian men, women and children non-combatants by deadly Fascist machine gun fire which is a horror to all civilized mankind," and demanding "the restoration of the kingdom and lands of Ethiopia to the peoples of Ethiopia and the re-ascension of King Haile Selassie to his throne, the most ancient of the kingdoms in the world."

In taking this action the convention made the following declaration:

"Previous conventions of the American Federation of Labor have emphatically protested the invasion of Ethiopia by the Italian government. The conventions have expressed their deepest sympathy with the Ethiopian people in their struggle to maintain their right to self-government and the unquestioned ownership of the country they have held in possession from time immemorial. Nothing since our last convention has occurred to change the previously declared position of the American Federation of Labor upon the barbarous invasion of Ethiopia and the unspeakable horrors which followed."

In its report to the convention the Resolutions Committee said it recommended referring the resolution to the Executive Council because of the belief that the "specific provisions of the resolution would be difficult to achieve by trade union action alone."

F

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS BILL (BLACK CONNERY BILL).

Application to Foreign Products.—The convention concurred in a resolution urging that the "Connery Wage and Hour Bill," which failed of enactment during the first session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress, should be amended so as to apply to foreign imports and referred the resolution to the AFL Executive Council "with the request that it give full support to the legislation requested."

The resolution said that "there is imported into the country from low-wage foreign countries numerous products manufactured under conditions abhorrent to the American wage earner," that a remedy for this was contained in certain provisions of the "Connery Wage and Hour Bill" which seek "to prevent entering through interstate commerce products of sweatshops and low-wage factories," and urged that like provisions be offered for inclusion in the bill when it is considered "at the next session of Congress."

Protection of Trade Union Organization and Collective Bargaining.—Pointing out that the Black-Connery Bill "was not introduced by the American Federation of Labor," that "officers of the American Federation of Labor did not participate in its preparation," and that "the bill was not drafted by a committee of the Senate or the House, neither did the Senator who introduced it in the Senate and the Congressman who introduced it in the House, have a hand in its preparation," the convention approved "the efforts of the President of the American Federation of Labor to secure amendments to the original bill which would safeguard the vital interests of our free trade union movement, and which would not work against the practice of trade union organization and collective bargaining by all wage earners of the country."

The convention also declared that "when far-reaching legislative measures affecting the trade union movement are introduced without consultation with the officers and representatives of the American Federation of Labor as to the provisions and the phraseology of the measure, that labor should most searchingly examine the measure before giving approval and support for its enactment," with the added statement that "when such legislative measures are introduced without our having participated in their preparation, that labor is justified in assuming a definitely questioning attitude, until such time as it has become thoroughly convinced that there is nothing in the measure which would work disadvantageously to our free trade union movement."

The convention also directed that the AFL officers and Executive Council before taking further action in connection with the Black-Connery Bill "call into consultation the officers of the Building and Construction Trades Department, the Metal Trades Department, the Railway Employes Department and the Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor."

Farm Ownership.—The convention supported "legislation protecting farm ownership and for the general relief of the agricultural industry," and recommended that the A. F. of L. Executive Council "continue consultation with spokesmen for bona fide farm organizations for the enactment of legislation beneficial to the broad common interests of industry and agriculture."

Federal Judges—Limitation in Charging Juries.—"Legislation abolishing the gross misuse of judicial authority by federal judges in granting and giving instructions in civil and criminal cases in the District Courts of continental United States," restricted by H. R. 4721, which passed the House of Representatives during the first session of the Seventy-fifth Congress, was endorsed by the convention.

FEDERAL LABOR UNIONS.

National Council.—The convention approved a resolution calling for the appointment by the American Federation of Labor of a "committee composed of members of federal labor unions, which committee, together with the officers of the Federation of Labor, shall study the problems of federal labor unions and the advisability of establishing a council of federal labor unions so that these organizations may coordinate their efforts in solving their common problems."

The resolution declared that "our Federal labor unions have many common problems which might be approached more intelligently if these several groups had a better understanding of union procedure in collective bargaining, establishment of seniority systems, handling of grievances, wage and hour schedules, etc."

FRATERNAL DELEGATES (ELECTION).

British Trades Union Congress.—The convention elected P. J. Morrin, president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, and Daniel J. Tobin, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, as fraternal delegates of the American Federation of Labor to the 1938 session of the British Trades Union Congress.

Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.—The convention elected Joseph J. Kehoe, of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, as fraetnral delegate of the American Federation of Labor to the 1938 session of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

FREE FEDERATION OF WORKING MEN OF PUERTO RICO.

The convention complimented the Free Federation of Working Men of Puerto Rico for the progress it had made during the last year in improving the economic condition of Puerto Rican workers, suggested "that the only way the advancement of the workers can be attained is by thorough trade union organization," and recommended that the A. F. of L. Executive Council "continue their moral assistance and advice in aiding the working men of Puerto Rico in attaining their economic ends, and render them such support as is possible to remain a part of the United States."

Among the achievements of organized labor in Puerto Rico the A. F. of L. Executive Council included an agreement with 33 our of 41 sugar mills establishing the 8-hour day, granting a 12 per cent wage increase and ratifying the principle of collective bargaining; the renewal of an agreement between the longshoremen's unions of Puerto Rico and the shipping companies granting a 16 per cent wage increase; and an agreement (following the declaration by the Commissioner of Labor of Puerto Rico that Act No. 45 of 1919, establishing minimum wages for women employed in industrial and commercial occupations was constitutional and in full force in Puerto Rico, beginning April 1, 1937) with 25 employers in the tobacco stripping business granting full recognition of labor unions, provisions for establishing a general collective agreement covering the whole tobacco stripping industry, and enabling women workers to have an increase of 25 per cent in wages. The Council reported that the tobacco agreement benefitted 25,000 women tobacco strippers.

G

GERMAN GOODS.

Boycott.—The convention again condemned the destruction of the labor movement of Germany by the Hitler dictatorship and renewed its former declarations urging a boycott of German goods.

"We cannot fail to recall," the convention said, "the stirring message sent to the free peoples of the world by our convention in 1933, when we protested against the destruction of the free labor movement of Germany, under the heel of the rising Hitler tyranny. We cannot fail to recall how all free peoples were cheered by our declaration that our people would refuse to buy the products exported under and by that dictatorship. And we must not fail to record that the warfare waged against organized labor in Germany was next launched against the churches and that, following in the wake of the destruction of freedom for labor came complete destruction of freedom of worship, with torture, death or exile meted out as punishment for the crime of having been born into a minority.

"We recommend, in this connection that our declaration of boycott of German goods be reiterated and that it be rededicated with a new vigor and a new determination, and that it be maintained until such time as all rights are restored to free trade unions and

(Continued on Page 4)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 3)

peoples of the Jewish and Catholic faiths and to those of all faiths who are persecuted."

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

Civil Service—Extension. — Declaring that "it is essential that the merit system be extended and expanded upward, outward, and downward to cover all positions in the Executive Civil Service of the United States except those which the President may determine to be policy-determining, in fact," the convention reaffirmed "its unqualified adherenbe to the extension and expansion of the merit system," and instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council to continue its cooperation with affiliated organizations of government employees in the furtherance of these "remedial legislative and executive objectives" and "those of similar purport that are in accord with the program and principles of the American Federation of Labor."

Collective Bargaining.—The convention adopted a resolution instructing the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to exert every possible effort to have enacted legislation in the national Congress, establishing collective bargaining and the signing of contracts, governing rates of pay, hours of labor, and the conditions of employment by and between the responsible heads of departments and the divisions of national government and unions of employes, if and when such employes shall become an organized affiliate of the American Federation of Labor without any interference from any elected or appointed officer of such department or division of government," with the provision "that this resolution in no way contemplates disturbance of methods by which certain unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor obtain their protection and benefits from legislation and who are desirous of continuing this condition."

The resolution pointed out that "the acceptance and practice of the principles of collective bargaining has come to be recognized as not only desirable but necessary to promote the best interests of both employer and employe and has been so recognized by legislators in several states and the national government, as applied to private industry through the enactment of legislation providing for such collective bargaining," and that "the application of these principles to employees of government is just as necessary as in private industry."

Custodial Service.—Pointing out that "the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, embraces certain trades and other workmen particularly in the Custodial Service, whose wages have not kept pace with those employees coming under the wage board system," and that "these employees were excepted from the general provisions of the Classification Act of 1923 which excluded the skilled workers from the operation of that Act," the convention endorsed a resolution providing that "an effort be made to remove these employees from the purview of the Classification Act of 1923 as amended, and to have them placed under a schedule of wages not less than that prevailing in the Navy Yard service and to confer upon them the benefits of the forty-hour week without reduction in weekly earnings." In the interest of this proposal the convention endorsed the principles of the Ramspeck Bill, H. R. 2698, introduced January 12, 1937, and declared that it would endeavor to secure the enactment of the bill.

Employment Standards.—The convention reaffirmed its position in favor of higher standards of employment for government employees and instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council to continue its cooperation with the affiliated organizations of government employees in furthering the legislative program of those organizations with regard to improved working conditions in government employment.

The program contained in the resolution presented to the convention by the delegates of government employees organizations related particularly "to the extension and liberalization of sick and vacation leaves; the elimination of harmful and objectionable speed-up practices; the reduction of night work requirements; the establishment of a Civil Service Employes Court of Appeals as a separate and independent institution wtih employe representation thereon; employe representation on all personnel boards; unqualified adherence to and of the extension of the civil service system with respect to appointment and to tenure of office; the improvement of postal substitute employes' and village letter carriers' working and wage conditions; the extension of the shorter week principle without reduction in wages; equitable upward pay revision; equitable automatic promotion systems for all employes; prompt payment of salaries; extension of the classification principle to those groups which would be benefitted thereby and who desire it; prompt elimination of the evils of present so-called efficiency rating systems; higher rate of compensation for overtime and for night work and kindred betterments."

The convention declared that "these measures conform to the program and urgings of the American Federation of Labor to the effect that the government establish and maintain employment standards as a model to those existing in the most advanced establishments in private industry."

Longevity Pay.—The conventoin endorsed the proposal for successive increases in pay based upon service, known as longevity pay, provided in the bill H. R. 162 introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative James M. Mead, and a similar bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Pat McCarran and recommended continual efforts for the enactment of this legislation.

Longevity Pay—Endorsement by Rural Letter Carriers Federation.—The convention received from the National Federation of Rural Letter Carriers, an A. F. of L. affiliate but not represented in the convention, an endorsement of the Longevity Pay Bill and other legislative recommendations contained in resolutions for federal civil service employees.

Political Rights.—The convention disapproved a resolution calling for legislation permitting government employees "to take an active part in political campaigns," to "publicly express their views or opinions regarding the fitness of any candidate for public office," to "endorse or oppose any movement, principle, or public issue that might be construed as a controversial subject," and to seek and accept "appointment or election to public office."

The convention said that in taking this position it was "following the established policy of a majority of the Civil Service Unions in their respective national conventions and before Congress. It is the traditional and well founded belief of these unions that no more certain methods could be pursued to destroy the safeguards of the civil service and the merit system than to have the provisions of this resolution adopted as national policy. It was to protect public employes from the spoils system that the civil service, carrying with it necessary inhibitions against the invasion of partisan politics, originally adopted these regulations."

In this connection, the convention instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to support the Civil Service Trade Unionists in the maintenance and protection of the rights of private discussion and participation in politics they now enjoy."

Thirty-Year Optional Retirement and Widow's Annuity.—Declaring that the U. S. Civil Service Retirement Law "would be more humanitarian and also more efficient if retirement were optional with each employee after thirty years of service and provisions made for widows of deceased annuitants," the convention reaffirmed its position in favor of this legislation and instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to cooperate with affiliated government employees organizations to secure the enactment of a thirty-year optional retirement law and a widow's annuity."

GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION.

Endorsement.—The convention endorsed the proposal of the President "for reorganization of government establishments in the interest of efficiency and economy," but instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to be watchful that such economies of operation are not at the expense of the maintenance and the advancement of proper standards of employment for government workers." The convention also instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to support efforts of trade unionists in government service for such improvements in government operation as shall not be at the expense of the employe."

Panama Canal and Panama Railroad Employees.—In considering a resolution which declared that the enactment of Senate bills S. 2700 and S. 2970, providing for the reorganization of government departments, "contained many provisions of the Economy Act of 1932," and that "the passage of legislation of this nature will result in pay cuts and a reduction in conditions of employment and living to all government employees, including the American personnel of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad," the convention went on record as "opposing any and all provisions of reorganization legislation which will reduce or endanger the wages, hours, employment and working conditions of government workers."

H

HAWAII.

Statehood.—The convention endorsed the position of the AFL Executive Council against statehood for Hawaii. In its report to the convention on this subject the Executive Council said:

"S. Con. Res. 18, which passed the Congress, provides for the appointment of a joint Congressional Committee of 24 to investigate statehood and other subjects relating to the welfare of the Territory of Hawaii. A report is to be made by the Committee not later than January 15, 1938.

"Owing to the fact that the great majority of the residents of Hawaii are Asiatics the Executive Council believes that any movement to grant statehood to Hawaii should be opposed."

HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS AND ASBESTOS WORKERS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Pledge of Support to the American Federation of Labor.—The convention noted with satisfaction a resolution introduced by the delegate of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, which the fifteenth convention of the Association adopted, pledging "to its parent body, the American Federation of Labor, its unswerving loyalty, its fullest cooperation and financial support for the purpose of halting the invasion of its ranks by the so-called 'C. I. O.' or any other group attempting to challenge its supremacy."

HOMEWORK, INDUSTRIAL.

Abolition.—The convention reiterated its former declarations favoring the abolition of industrial homework. "The American Federation of Labor for many years," the convention said, "has been active in its efforts to have industrial homework—sweatshops—eliminated by State and Federal legislation. The enactment of the Walsh-Healey Bill was of some material assistance in this direction." To supplement its work in this field the convention instructed the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to continue their legislative efforts so that industrial homework—the sweatshop—can be eliminated from our industries" and pledged full support to State federations of labor in their efforts "to secure adequate legislation prohibiting industrial homework—the sweatshop."

Barring Home Work Products from Interstate Commerce.—The convention recommended that the American Federation of Labor endeavor to have Federal legislation passed to prevent the shipment in interstate commerce of products produced by industrial home work.

Model Law.—The convention recommended that the American Federation of Labor "draft a model law regulating industrial home work" and send it to the state federations of labor with emphasis upon "the necessity of introducing such legislation in their States, with a view to eliminating this class of work in homes."

HOURS OF LABOR.

Women and Minors.—State federations of labor were urged by the convention "to bend their efforts to have legislation enacted which will shorten hours for women and minors" in those States which have not already enacted this legislation. The A. F. of L. Executive Council told the convention that "reducing the upper limits set by the States on daily and weekly hours of labor for women and minors is a helpful preliminary step to the general establishment of the shorter work day."

HOUSING.

Tax Exemption.—The convention concurred with the action of the A. F. of L. Executive Council in planning to introduce in the next session of Congress bills to exempt from the income tax of home owners the building and renovation of homes. The Council reported that in compliance with the request of the 1936 A. F. of L. convention it had surveyed the possibility of securing the enactment of this legislation by the first session of the Seventy-fifth Congress, but was informed by the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee that it would be necessary for the bill to go over until the next session as there would be no general tax bill considered in the first session.

HOUSING ACT OF 1937.

The convention endorsed the action of the A. F. of L. Executive Council in mobilizing organized labor throughout the United States to secure favorable action by the U. S. Congress on the Wagner Housing Bill and concurred in the Council's recommendation for close and continued contact with every phase of the administration of the Act by representatives of organized labor, and urged the Council and the A. F. of L. Legislative Committee to continue their efforts to carry out the Council's housing policy. In addition the convention recommended that "the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor continue to press the housing policy of the American Federation of Labor in order to secure for the members of our unions and their families the full measure of benefit and protection from the operation of the program."

$500,000,000 Housing Fund

The Executive Council reported that the Housing Act authorizes the United States Housing Authority to lend $500,000,000 to local housing authorities to aid in the construction of low-rent housing during the next three years, which loans, in view of the fact that they are limited to 90 per cent of the cost of the projects will when consummated be the means of financing projects valued at over $550,000,000.

The Council's report estimated that over $180,000,000 will be expended for direct labor on the site for the construction of low-rent housing, providing employment for 150,000 building mechanics during the next three years. In addition the Council estimated that over $240,000,000 will be expended for lumber, steel, cement, bricks, plumbing and heating and other building supplies, in the production of which jobs for between 200,000 and 250,000 persons will be provided.

Labor Standards Protected

"Labor standards on all construction of housing done in connection with Federal loans, annual contributions, or capital grants under the Act," the Executive Council declared, "are carefully safeguarded by a set of stringent provisions regarding the payment of prevailing wages, maintenance of maximum hours of work, prohibition of kick-back practices and workmen's compensation."

With regard to the influence of organized labor in securing the enactment of the Housing Act and the need for constant watchfulness by representatives of labor over the administration of the Act, the Council said:

"The Wagner Housing Act would never have successfully weathered the recurrent stormy attacks of a disorganized Congress bent on economy, if organized labor throughout the country had not strongly asserted its demand for a permanent housing program. It was a concerted and unanimous response from all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor in every state of the Nation that made it possible to overcome legislative obstacles at crucial times.

Importance of Federation's Housing Policy

"The Executive Council, appreciating the need for close and constant contact with every phase of the administration of this Act by representatives of organized labor throughout the country, believes that the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor should continue to press the housing policy of the Federation in order to secure for the members of our unions and their families the full measure of benefit and protection from the operation of the program. We recommend that, to further accomplish this purpose, every state federation and every central labor union be directed to create a housing committee, or continue the existing housing committee, to cooperate with the state and local housing authorities, under general direction of the Housing Committee of the A. F. of L.

"We further request the Housing Committee to formulate a legislative program, designed to strengthen the terms of the Wagner Housing Act and extend the scope of its application, for submission in the next session of Congress."

Amendments.—The convention declared that "the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated organizations shall take all necessary steps to guarantee amendment of the United States Housing Act of 1937 at the earliest possible date in the following respects:

"1. More funds must be made available for both loans and grants, and the continuity of the program guaranteed;

"2. The cost limitations inserted by Senator Byrd, which may hinder the construction of decent, safe and permanent homes in many cities, both large and small, must be removed,

"3. The condition inserted by Senator Walsh that old dwellings must be eliminated equal in number to the new dwellings constructed under the Act, which even broadly interpreted will tend to perpetuate the housing shortage and divert housing funds into the pockets of owners of over-valued slum property, must be entirely eliminated;

"4. The statutory condition inserted by Senator Tydings and the House Banking and Currency Committee that local housing authorities must put up 10% of the capital cost and pay 20% of the annual contributions, which would tend to prevent any housing program at all in the smaller and poorer communities, must be relaxed;

"5. The recognition of bona fide cooperative housing societies as qualified recipients of loans under the Housing Act must be restored."

The convention pointed out that the Housing Act of 1937 was enacted in the last session of Congress "by the continuous valiant efforts of Senator Wagner, the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor, and the Labor Housing Conference, and as a result of the demand voiced by officials and representatives of the American Federation of Labor all over the country," but added that "although the Housing Act represents a great legislative victory for Labor, and constitutes a first concrete step toward the solution of the housing problem, it was finally passed with, certain cuts and amendments which seriously limit the scope of the Act and may even prevent action in many localities, and which will necessiate further legislative action under labor leadership in the next session of Congress."

Local Labor Committees.—Declaring that "successful operation of the Housing Act, to insure permanently increased employment of building trades workers and the eventual construction of an adequate supply of low-rent homes to meet the acute housing shortage and fulfill the needs of low-income workers' families, depends absolutely on the active and responsible participation of local labor organizations in every step of the program from appointment of local housing authorities to initiation, construction and management of housing projects," the convention adopted a resolution providing that "the appointment of local Labor Housing Committees by Building Trades Council and Central Bodies, to cooperate with the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor and the Labor Housing Conference as urged by the Atlantic City Convention of the American Federation of Labor in 1935, shall be continued on a broader scale; and that such local Labor Housing Committees shall insure satisfactory labor representation on all local housing authorities, and shall take an active and responsible part in all local housing activities under the Housing Act, including the proper initiation and management of projects as well as the safeguarding of fair wages and working conditions during construction."

HOWARD, CHARLES P.

Denial of Seat in the Convention.—Representatives of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America challenged before the Committee on Credentials the right of Charles P. Howard, delegate ex-officio from the International Typographical Union, to sit in the convention as a delegate from the I. T. U. In its report to the convention the Credentials Committee said that the representatives of the Carpenters Brotherhood "accused Mr. Howard of being Secretary of the Committee for Industrial Oragnization, a dual and rival organization to the American Federation of Labor, and as Secretary of the C. I. O. and on behalf of the C. I. O. he signed a charter, or certificate of affiliation granting an international union to Lumber, Timber and Saw Mill Workers of the Northwest, members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, under the title—'International Wood Workers of America.' He thereby assisted in creating the dual and rival International Union to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America in violation of the policy of the American Federation of Labor.

In addition, documents were submitted to the convention showing that Mr. Howard as secretary of the Committee for Industrial Organization had signed a C. I. O. charter for a union of printers, including pressmen, photo-engravers and stereotypers, employed by the Phelps Publishing Company at Springfield, Mass.

"Mr. Howard did not deny any of these charges but emphatically challenged the right of this assembly, a duly constituted convention of the American Federation of Labor, to deny a person a seat as a delegate to the Convention if such person holds and presents proper credentials from a duly created and affiliated organization."

After a complete examination of the constitution and laws of the American Federation of Labor the committee reported that "with the removal of any doubt as to the legality of this Convention to deny a person a seat as a delegate, your Committee feels there is no other course to pursue than to sustain the protest of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners instituted against the seating of Mr. Charles P. Howard."

The convention adopted the report of the Committee on Credentials by a vote of 25,376 to 1,245.

I

INJUNCTION LAWS, STATE.

The convention urged the state federations of labor to use all their influence to secure the enactment of anti-injunction laws in the 29 States whose legislatures have not passed such laws, with especial emphasis on Nevada, Ohio, Texas, Connecticut, Michigan, West Virginia and California, where this type of legislation was introduced during 1937 but failed of enactment.

The convention also asked the A. F. of L. Executive Council to have a survey made of existing State anti-injunction laws and their operation and to outline necessary changes "for the benefit of the workers" and to draft a new law on this subject and send copies of it and the study on which it is based to State federations of labor for their use in urging the enactment of anti-injunction laws.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS.

Reaffiliation of American Federation of Labor.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council reported to the convention that the American Federation of Labor withdrew from the International Federation of Trade Unions in 1921 on the following three counts:

"First—That the new constitution completely abrogated the principle of complete autonomy for each national trade union federation.

"Second—That through the issuance of appeals and proclamations the executive body of the international federation had committed the federation to a revolutionary principle, to which the American Federation of Labor is and always has been uncompromisingly opposed and to which no labor movement guided by democratic ideals could give approval.

"Third—That a system of dues had been adopted which would place upon the American Federation of Labor a heavy and unbearable expense."

Pointing out that the 1935 A. F. of L. convention recommended that the A. F. of L. Executive Council be given power to act upon reaffiliation with the International Federation of Trade Unions "if the discussions initiated by President Green proved to disclose a basis of effective cooperation," the Executive Council reported that a number of months ago officials of the I. F. T. U. appeared before the Council and "invited the American Federation of Labor to undertake affiliation and agreed to modify the conditions of admission in accordance with the declared position of the A. F. of L. upon repeated occasions."

"Following these representations," the report continued, "the Executive Council accepted the invitation tendered. In order to bring about the basis for reaffiliation it also designated its Third Vice President, Matthew Woll, to go to Warsaw to attend the meeting of the General Council of the International Federation of Trade Unions and complete the plan for reaffiliation. In accordance with these instructions and responsive to the request of the I. F. T. U., Vice President Woll went to Warsaw, Poland, to attend the meetings of the General Council held June 30 to July 3. He succeeded not only in winning their cordial response, but their unanimous approval of a motion to reaffiliate.

Thus sixteen years after the disaffiliation of the Federation of Labor it has been possible once more to reunite the forces of international labor in a growing and powerful instrumentality for the advancement of the free trade union movement the world over."

In approving reaffiliation with the International Federation of Trade Unions the convention said:

"We commend and congratulate President Green and the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor for their faithful adherence to the declared position of the A. F. of L. and their adherence to recommendations of committees and conventions in all of the past years on this important question. We commend them for the effort put forth to make possible again our affiliation with the I. F. T. U. We are pleased to note that they have been helpful in the new and serious situations having confronted the trade unions throughout the world, because of the menacing and rapid growth of dictatorships abroad which threatens not only the free trade union movement everywhere, but likewise menaces the peace of the world. It is more clearly evident today than ever that the economic power of International organized labor, intelligently and aggressively directed, is the most potent weapon against the destructive and imperialistic aims and plans of all such dictatorships.

"It was because of these developments and knowledge of the splendid and sincere activities of the I. F. T. U. in advancing and elevating the economic and social standards of the people of all nations that the Executive Council accepted the invitation tendered and arranged to become affiliated again wtih the International Federation of Trade Unions."

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION.

International Labor Standards.—The convention approved the report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council which gave detailed information regarding the "notable progress in advancing international labor standards" recently made by the International Labor Organization. In April, 1937, the Council said, the World Conference on Textiles was held in Washington, D. C., with 22 countries represented. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, represented the Governing Body of the I. L. O. and Emil Rieve represented the American Textile Workers.

Although the conference did not adopt a 40-hour weekly standard for the textile industry "because of inadequate data and consideration to prove that the standard was practical for the whole industry," the deliberations "paved the way for the adoption of the 40-hour convention by the June conference" of the I. L. O. in Geneva.

The Geneva conference also adopted a 40-hour week draft convention for public works and amended its minimum age standard, raising it from 14 to 15 years for employment in industrial and non-industrial work. A draft convention to apply minimum employment age to family work undertakings was also adopted.

Ratification of Geneva Conventions.—The A. F. of L. convention placed itself on record as giving every possible support to the universal approval of the forty-hour week in the worldwide textile industry and for the speedy ratification by the Senate of the United States of the conventions adopted in Geneva.

Information was received by the convention that "the International Labor Organization at Geneva in June of this year adopted conventions to establish the forty-hour week in the textile industry, to create standards of safety provisions for the building construction workers, to raise the minimum age for employment in industry and in non-industrial businesses from 14 to 15 years," and that although "American labor will benefit from the establishment of these standards in the United States and from their establishment in competing nations," the conventions have ont as yet been ratified by the United States Senate, which ratification is necessary in order to apply them to American industry.

Representation of American Federation of Labor.—The convention noted the selection of James Duffy, president of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters; George Meany, president of the New York State Federation of Labor, and Matthew Woll, third vice president of the American Federation of Labor, as representatives to attend the meetings of the Governing Board of the International Labor Organization during the past year, and the selection of Robert Watt, secretary of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, as a delegate to the 23rd International Labor Conference in Geneva in June, 1937, and his election as a member of the Governing Board.

J

JAPAN'S WAR AGAINST CHINA.

The convention joined with the protest of British organized labor, expressed in a cablegram received from Walter Citrine, secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, "in condemnation of the barbaric, systematic massacre of the defenseless Chinese civilian population by Japanese aircraft and submarines, and their unwarrantable destruction of the cities, homes and properties of the Chinese people."

"We deplore beyond our power to express," the convention said, "the shameful acts of continuous aggression by the Japanese imperialists and militarists against a peace-loving nation and its peace-loving people. We consider the Japanese army and its masters guilty of conduct that outrages every sense of decency, fairness and humanity. That it violates every shred of International Law is perhaps the least among all the counts against the aggressors. * * *

"We feel constrained to say that all dictatorships follow much the same pattern. There is a steady and continuous destruction of the rights of nationals and a continued aggression against the rights and freedom of other peoples. And now we find the Japanese Empire embarked upon a great campaign of destruction, calculated to enslave the Chinese people and capture the material resources of that great nation.

"We hereby call upon the people of the United States and of all free nations, not only to enter protest and to proclaim condemnation of the outrageous acts of Japan and to denounce its militarist and conscienceless policies, but we urge that all free nations and their peoples cooperate in the taking of such action as may be best calculated to bring this unwarranted, unjustified and inhuman aggression to an end without delay."

Prohibition of U. S. Citizens Giving War Aid.—The convention recommended that the "United States government prohibit its citizens from selling war material or lending money to Japan until that nation has ceased its uncalled for and aggressive and barbaric methods of conquest."

JAPANESE PRODUCTS.

Boycott.—The Convention adopted a resolution condemning the "militaristic fanatics now in control of Japan" for "waging an undeclared war" and killing and wounding "many thousands of innocent people." The convention declared that these "atrocious activities" are financed "through dumping into the United States and other markets the products of exploited workers who are paid the equivalent of less than five cents per hour" and called upon "all members of organized labor and friends of organized labor and all persons opposed to the unscrupulous tactics of the Japanese fanatics to boycott the products of Japan, and, by refusing to purchase such products contribute towards the speedy elimination of these warlike activities."

While expressing the belief "that the concert of peace-loving nations is necessary before unjustified aggressions by one country against another can be prevented," the convention declared that "the American people and our free trade union movement are unwilling to in any manner contribute to the financial resources of Japan by purchasing her manufactured products at this time."

In addition, the convention instructed the President and Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor "to immediately get in touch with all of the free national trade union movements in other countries, requesting their cooperation so that the withdrawal of national purchasing power may have its immediate effect on Japan and prevent other nations in attempting what is now being done by Japan."

The convention also joined "in the appeal of the labor movement of Great Britain in declaring a boycott against all goods manufactured in Japan until there is a termination of Japanese policies of conquest and aggression," recommended that "this procedure be followed," and that "this recommendation be communicated to the labor movement of the United States and to the labor movements of the world."

JURISDICTION.

Coopers vs. Carpenters.—The convention dismissed the complaint of the Coopers International Union against the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. The convention pointed out that in the 1936 convention the Coopers union alleged that the Carpenters were encroaching upon their jurisdiction, and that the A. F. of L. Executive Council requested the Coopers union to submit a specific statement of instances of such encroachment, but that "up to date, this has not been done by the Coopers International Union." Moreover, the convention declared, no credentials have been submitted to this convention and no representatives of the Coopers' International Union appeared before the convention committee on the Executive Council's report, charged with hearing jurisdictional controversies.

Lithographers vs. Printing Trades Unions.—The convention voted to include in the report of the committee on the Executive Council's report the fact that the committee approved the report of the A. F. of L. Council which approval had been inadvertantly omitted.

Longshoremen vs. Masters, Mates and Pilots.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution regarding the controversy that had arisen between the national organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots of America and the International Longshoremen's Association with regard to jurisdiction over the organization called "United Licensed Officers."

Masters, Mates and Pilots vs. Longshoremen.—The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council and the President of the American Federation of Labor make further effort to adjust the jurisdiction dispute between the National Organization Masters, Mates and Pilots of America and the International Longshoremen's Association.

A resolution before the convention claimed that the International Longshoremen's Association had issued charters to the following groups in New York City: Harbor Boatmen Union Local 933-3; Railroad Marine Workers, Inc., Local 933-5; United Licensed Officers Organization, and the Associated Martine Workers. The National Organization Masters, Mates and Pilots of America claimed jurisdiction over these groups.

Pavers, Rammermen, Flag Layers, Bridge and Stone Curb Setters and Sheet Asphalt Pavers vs. Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers.—The convention commended the officers and members of these two unions in settling their jurisdictional controversy by reaching an agreement at a conference held in Washington, D. C., in February, 1937, providing for an amalgamation of the two organizations according to which the Pavers International Union surrendered its A. F. of L. charter and received charters as local unions of the Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union. The convention also concurred in the action of the AFL Executive Council in approving the amalgamation.

Printing Trades vs. Lithographers.—Relative to the controversy between the Lithographers International Protective and Beneficial Association on questions of jurisdiction over off-set work and amalgamation of the Lithographers Association with the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union and the International Photo Engravers Union, including the use of a union label now furnished by the Lithographers Association, the convention pointed out that "only one conference between the interested organizations has been held since the Tampa convention," and that "those at interest" appeared before the committee on the Executive Council's report at the Denver convention, "but no additional light was added to the subject." The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council "be directed to arrange conferences between the interested organizations within 90 days from adjournment of this convention."

With regard to the union label used by the Lithographers Association, the AFL Executive Council reported to the convention its belief that the "use of a union label now furnished by the Lithographers International Protective and Beneficial Association is serving only to defeat the international printing trades unions in the furtherance of the jurisdiction granted to them by the American Federation of Labor over offset plate making and printing but is also being used to prevent an early compliance with decisions of the American Federation of Labor. In view of these considerations it is proposed that we disapprove this practice on the part of the International Lithographers Protective and Beneficial Association, that we render no aid or comfort to it in the furtherance of this union label until compliance with our decisions has been effected and that Labor in general and sympathetic friends of Labor in particular be advised of this situation, that it may be made clear to all that the use of a union label by the International Lithographers Protective and Beneficial Association is disapproved and that the union label of the Allied Printing Trades Unions be recognized as the only bona fide union label to be used in connection with all forms and character of plate making and printing including offset plate making and offset printing and as awarded to the international printing trades unions by the American Federation of Labor."

Quarry Workers vs. Engineers.—The convention concurred in the ruling of the A. F. of L. Executive Council in the jurisdiction dispute between the Quarry Workers International Union of North America and the International Union of Operating Engineers and made the ruling the decision of the convention.

The Executive Council decided "that the Quarry Workers' jurisdiction does not and never was intended in any manner whatsoever to extend to any sand, stone, gravel, slag and rock, piles or pits, or distribution yards where said sand, stone, gravel, slag or trap and crushed rock is excavated and loaded dredged, blasted, crushed, screened, sized, stored and distributed for building and construction work including jetty, road and dam construction."

Railway Clerks vs. Longshoremen.—The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in the jurisdictional controversy arising from the complaint from the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks that the International Longshoremen's Association was violating the jurisdiction of the clerks by admitting to membership freight handlers and clerks employed by railroad companies in the New York Harbor district, that the Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks has jurisdiction over the freight handlers and clerks involved.

Teamsters—Extension of Jurisdiction Over Those Employed in Inland Warehouses.—The convention concurred with the action of the AFL Executive Council in extending the jurisdiction of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America to inland warehouses. "It was specifically stipulated," the Council reported to the convention, "that this extension of jurisdiction cover those employed in warehouses located back from the marine docks or the waterfront; and that those employed in warehouses located on the marine docks and on the actual waterfront come under the jurisdiction of the International Longshoremen's Association.

Upholsterers vs. A. F. of L. Federal Labor Unions in Upholstered Furniture, Mattress and Bedding Industry and A. F. of L. International Unions.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council two resolutions regarding jurisdiction in the upholstered furniture industry.

One of the resolutions instructed "the American Federation of Labor to issue no more charters to Federal local unions in the upholstered furniture, mattress and bedding industries, and upon receipt of applications for charters from such groups of workers that they be at once turned over to the Upholsterers International Union."

The second resolution charged that various international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor are issuing charters to the workers in the upholstered furniture industry irrespective of the jurisdictional limitations of these international unions, and demanded that "the organization of these particular workshops which employ upholsterers, mattress and bedding workers, and also at the same time other workers, throughout the United States and Canada be recognized by the American Federation of Labor as being exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Upholsterers International Union."

In referring the resolutions to the AFL Executive Council the convention said it was advised that the American Federation of Labor has not at any time extended the jurisdiction of the Upholsterers Union to include furniture where upholstering work ends.

Upholsterers vs. Painters.—The convention reaffirmed the decision of the Tampa (1936) convention ordering the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America "to withdraw the charters they have issued in the City of Chicago to the two local unions affiliated with the Upholsterers' International Union of North America, and that no other charters shall be granted by the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America to a local union or members thereof that have seceded from the Upholsterers' International Union of North America."

In addition, the convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council arrange for meetings between the trades involved with the object in view of working out an agreement of common interest to the international unions concerned.

K

KITCHEN UTENSIL AND ENAMELWARE WORKERS.

National Council. — The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in forming a national council composed of federal labor unions in the enamelware and kitchen utensil industry which was established at a conference held in Cleveland, Ohio, July 24, 1937, and congratulated the workers in this industry on the successful launching of the council.

KOHLER COMPANY.

Anti-Union Policy.—The convention adopted a resolution which condemned the anti-union policy of the Kohler Company, of Kohler, Wisconsin, from the strike of Federal Labor Union No. 18545, called on July 16, 1934, and continued ever since then, with picketing of the Kohler plant carried on daily by members of the union, and reiterated "assurances of support to these heroic workers" by the American Federation of Labor, with the declaration that the officers of the A. F. of L. "continue to give such further support and assistance as may be helpful in freeing our brothers from the thraldom imposed upon thousands of workers."

The convention was informed that the violent methods used by the company against union members began shortly after the strike was declared in 1934, when two union men were

(Continued on Page 5)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 4)

killed and forty-three others wounded so seriously (shot in the back) that they were sent to hospitals.

The convention was also informed that because of the strike, now in its fourth year, the Kohler Company, which manufactures bathtubs, sinks, pottery ware, plumbing fixtures, lavatories, heating plants, radiators, electric lighting plants, brass plumbing fittings, etc., "has reduced a once oppulent corporation to a plane where custom is secured largely through highly unethical manipulation," characterized by "competing against other competitors on a plan of cheapness" and "marketing their wares on the basis of underbidding any contractors, whatever their bid may be."

L

LABOR DEPARTMENT (U. S.)

Appropriations.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution urging that "all pressure be brought to bear to have a sufficient appropriation of money made to properly maintain the Secretary of Labor's office."

Division of Labor Standards.—In regard to the Division of Labor Standards in the U. S. Department of Labor the convention declared, "the American Federation of Labor has given its full support to the maintenance of the Division of Labor Standards, and has actively cooperated with its Director. The American Federation of Labor has used its best endeavors to assist the Department of Labor in securing adequate appropriations for its administration." The convention recommended that this policy be continued.

LABOR SUNDAY.

The convention concurred in the purpose of a resolution instructing the officers of the American Federation of Labor to recommend to all State federations of labor to request the Governors of their States to issue proclamations urging the observance of the Sunday preceding Labor Day as Labor Sunday and "to petition the Presidet of the United States to proclaim observance of this one Sunday as a day of worship to be observed by and dedicated to the laboring class of people throughout the nation."

The convention said it believed that "Executive proclamation of Labor Sunday in the several States and for the nation would be welcomed not only by Labor but by the churches as well."

LADIES HANDBAG, POCKETBOOK AND NOVELTY WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION.

A. F. of L. Charter.—The action of the AFL Executive Council in granting an international charter to the International Ladies Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union was approved by the convention which welcomed the international union into the fold of the A. F. of L. with the best wishes for continued success.

The Executive Council told the convention that "this organization was given jurisdiction over those employed in the manufacture of ladies handbags, pocketbooks and leather novelties. The organization has made substantial progress. A number of outstanding strikes which it was forced to order were won. Agreements have been negotiated between employers and members of the organization providing for union recognition, increased wages and improved conditions of employment.

"The officers of the American Federation of Labor as well as the Executive Council have given to this organization a full measure of cooperation and support."

LAUNDRY WORKERS.

Organization.—The convention instructed the American Federation of Labor to to circularize all state federations of labor, city central labor councils and A. F. of L. organizers stressing the importance of organizing the laundry workers and requesting them to use their influence to achieve this purpose in their districts and localities.

LEGISLATION, NATIONAL.

In considering the report of the AFL Executive Council that the enactment of labor legislation during the first session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress had been seriously interfered with by Congressional controversies carried to such an extent that "while nearly 13,000 bills and resolutions were introduced, very few other than private bills were passed," the convention urged upon "all members of organized labor to support efforts of the A. F. of L. to break the legislative log jam spoken of by the Executive Council in order that action may be had during the second session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress."

Despite the disorganization of parliamentary procedure during the first session, the Council listed the following legislation favorable to labor:

1. Low-Rent Housing Act.
2. Railroad Employes Retirement Act.
3. Requiring railroads to install appliances to promote safety of employes.
4. Unemployment census to be taken before April 1, 1938.
5. Appropriation of $1,500,000,000 for relief.
6. Appropriation of $18,000,000 to enable Social Security Board to make grants to States for old age assistance, public health, the blind and dependent children.
7. Providing for the promotion of postal laborers, watchmen and messengers.
8. Providing space in Federal buildings for Credit Union offices.
9. Panama Retirement Law made retroactive to include citizens separated from Service of Panama Canal or Panama Railroad Company between August 1, 1920, and July 1, 1926.
10. Appropriated $85,000,000 to enable farm tenants, farm laborers, share croppers and other individuals to obtain farms.

LITTLE, JOHN C.

Fraternal Delegate From British Trades Union Congress.—The convention presented John C. Little, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, of Great Britain, and one of the fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress, with an engraved watch and chain as a token of the appreciation of the officers and delegates. The convention also presented Mrs. Little with a wrist watch.

LOCAL UNIONS.

Affiliation With Building Trades Councils and Central Labor Councils.—The convention adopted a resolution requesting the AFL Executive Council to demand that organizations affiliated with and chartered by the American Federation of Labor but not affiliated with either the Building Trades or Central Labor Councils make application for membership at once. The resolution pointed out that failure to affiliate with these central bodies resulted in the non-affiliated locals not contributing in any way to financing the organization campaigns being conducted throughout the country.

LONGSHOREMEN.

Workmen's Compensation.—The convention referred to the International Longshoremen's Association, "with the suggestion that the AFL Executive Council will most willingly cooperate with them in any effort they desire to have made to amend the Federal Longshoremen's Compensation Act," a resolution which declared that the "longshoremen on the Great Lakes are employed only about seven and one-half months out of a year," that "in the present Federal Longshoremen's Compensation Act the rate is based on a twelve-month period, thus reducing the compensation of seasonal employees," and urging that "the proper representatives of the American Federation of Labor confer with the International Union of Longshoremen to the end that the longshoremen's compensation law be so amended that the rate for seasonal employes will be based on the time they are in actual employment rather than on the time actually worked."

LYNCHING BILL, FEDERAL.

The convention registered its "emphatic support of legislation for the purpose of removing from our society the blot of lynching" and instructed the AFL Executive Council "to vigorously continue efforts for the enactment of legislation of the most drastic character for this purpose."

The Council reported to the convention that the bill (H. R. 1507) which passed the House of Representatives during the first session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress and was made unfinished business for the second session, "provides that any officer who conspires with any member of a mob to injure or put such prisoners to death without authority of the law shall be likewise guilty of felony," with punishment fixed at imprisonment ranging from five to twenty-five years.

The Senate, however, submitted an entirely new bill providing that a state shall be deemed to have denied to any victim or victims of lynching equal protection or due process of law whenever that State or legally competent governmental subdivision thereof shall have failed, neglected or refused to employ the lawful means at its disposal for the protection of that person or those persons against lynching or against seizure and abduction followed by lynching. The Senate text also provides that any assemblage of three or more persons shall constitute a mob, provided, however, that "lynching" shall not be deemed to include violence occurring between members of groups of law breakers such as are commonly designated as gangsters or racketeers, nor violence occurring during the course of picketing or boycotting or any incident connected with any "labor dispute."

M

MARINE HOSPITAL FOR LOS ANGELES HARBOR.

The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution calling for support of the proposal to establish a marine hospital in the Port of Los Angeles with instructions to cooperate with the California Federation of Labor in the accomplishment of this object.

MARITIME UNIONS.

Pacific Coast.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution calling on the American Federation of Labor "to devise means and to lend all possible effort to immediately extend nationally the same standards which are at present existing for unlicensed seamen on the Pacific Coast and to cooperate in raising these standards for all American seamen." The resolution mentioned the following organizations as being responsible for many gains for their members in hours, wages and working conditions: The Marine Cooks and Stewards' Association of the Pacific Coast; the Pacific Coast Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers' Association and the Sailors Union of the Pacific.

The resolution also urged the adoption of a declaration that "all seafaring unions work in close cooperation to establish such national organization along democratic lines with all elections and matters of national importance decided by referendum vote and all district organizations granted full autonomy in the conduct of their own affairs."

MEAD, JAMES M.

The convention registered its approval of the continued efforts of Representative James M. Mead, sponsor of H. R. 162, providing longevity pay for Government employes "for the protection and advancement of wage earners both in public and private industry."

MEDICINE.

Socialization.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution favoring "socialized medicine." The resolution pointed out that sickness among the workers frequently causes hardship due to high doctor and hospital fees, that many workers have lost their insurance or membership in fraternal lodges during the depression and that thousands of them are now too old to become members again and are thereby deprived of any protection for sickness and benefits, and that "many of the insurance companies and lodges, more or less operating for a profit, are therefore not guaranteeing sufficient protection" to workers and their families. Because of these conditions the resolution recommended "that our Federal Government, as well as our States, provide for some form of socialized medicine," whereby workers and their families "will be protected in all cases of sickness, operations and hospitalization, free of charge."

In referring the resolution to the AFL Executive Council the convention pointed out that the Council has created a special committee for the purpose of studying the entire field of Social Security Legislation, and that the resolution would appropriately be included in the Council's study.

MERCHANT MARINE.

State Schoolships — Abolition. — The convention referred to the permanent Committee on Education of the American Federation of Labor for investigation and action a resolution which criticized the "State schoolships of the various States of the United States now existing," urged Federal and State legislation "abolishing all State nautical schoolships," and recommended as a "substitute therefor a modern system of nautical training for officers of the United States Merchant Marine."

Among other things the resolution declared that the State schoolships "are inadequate to the necessities of a modern merchant marine, and are of obsolete design and have but the slightest resemblance to a modern ship; they are of a type not adapted to the training of modern ships' officers and only by a stretch of imagination they are designated as schoolships"; that the "cost of maintaining said schoolships is out of all proportion to their usefulness, if any, and waste of taxpayers' money"; that "said schoolships cater to a privileged class—in other words, to the sons of persons of financial affluence and not to American youths of modest means or boys who have the seafaring profession at heart and must work their way from the bottom up," and that "said schoolships are yachts whereby sons of persons of affluent circumstances are enabled to take a yachting cruise occasionally and absorb a smattering of navigation, seamanship and acquaintance with obsolete engineering at the expense of the State and United States Governments, and after graduation from said schoolships rarely adopt the seafaring profession—in particular those boys graduating as marine engineers."

METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT.

Dual Unionism.—The convention commended the Metal Trades Department and its affiliated international unions "for the manner in which they have met and defeated the efforts of dual unionism," adding: "The records clearly indicate that the wave of dual union emotion is rapidly abating and metal trades craftsmen are joining the democraticaly operated internationals affiliated with the Metal Trades Department."

In its report to the convention on the activities of the Committee for Industrial Organization in its attempts to disrupt the metal trades unions affiliated with the department the AFL Executive Council said:

"One serious problem which has been faced by our local Metal Trades Councils developed through the policy of the C. I. O. in making raids upon the membership of our affiliated local unions and in many instances in the industrial centers endeavoring to force an employer having an agreement with our local Metal Trades Council to cancel it, and enter into an agreement with the C. I. O. In connection with some of these C. I. O. efforts, local authorities seemed apathetic, even though C. I. O. representatives used terroristic methods to accomplish their purpose.

"In a number of instances where these methods were accompanied by mass picketing to prevent our members from going to work in the shop where they had been employed for years, and where they had Metal Trades Council agreements with the employer, our members were forced to defend themselves. They did this so vigorously that mass picketing ceased to be a picnic and was discontinued."

Joint Agreements.—The convention noted with approval the successful negotiation of many joint agreements covering affiliated international unions, in every instance the full autonomy of each international having been respected and preserved. "These agreements," the convention declard, "are a refutation of the claim that joint agreements covering all those employed in an industry cannot be consummated except under the industrial form of organization.

"The machinery of this department offers the fullest possibilities for voluntary cooperation of all affiliated Internationals. The proof of its efficiency is contained in the rapidly increasing number of joint agreements being worked out by the department and its Local Metal Trades Councils."

MILITARY AND NAVAL OFFICERS.

Transfer to Positions in Civilian Branches of the Government.—The convention declared its opposition "to the transfer or assignment of retired or active naval or military officers to positions in the civilian branch of the Government," and instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to oppose any legislation authorizing or permiting assignment or transfer of military officer personnel to the civilian branches of the Government service." The convention said that such transfers were "an unwarranted invasion of the rights of civilian workers in Government service."

The resolution pointed out that "due to the crowded conditions amongst the officer personnel of the army and navy, it has been proposed by the navy department to transfer or assign military and naval officers who have been passed over for promotion by the selection board to positions in the civilian branches of the Government," and declared that "such a movement, if permitted to be put in force, would stifle promotion in the civilian branches of the service; would upset the morale of employes, who, after working for years to fit themselves for advancement as vacancies occur, find that their positions may be filled by transfer of officers; would aggravate a condition wherein there is already too much militarism in the civilian forces."

MINIMUM WAGE LAWS.

The convention urged state federations of labor "in those States not having minimum wage legislation the importance of having such legislation enacted in their States," and recommended that "all State federations of labor use their best efforts to have existing laws enforced."

MOONEY AND BILLINGS CASE.

Innocence of Participation in San Francisco Preparedness Day Bombing in 1916 Reaffirmed.—The Thomas J. Mooney and Warren K. Billings case came before the convention again in the form of two resolutions, both presented by the delegates of the International Molders Union of North America. One resolution reiterated "full and complete belief in the absolute innocence" of Thomas J. Mooney, and denounced "with righteous wrathful indignation and scornful contempt the original framers of this foul conspiracy" by which Mooney was convicted of participation in the San Francisco Preparedness Day bombing in 1916, and "every other public official who subsequent thereto by his decisions, aiding, abetting, deeds or words of encouragement toward the continuation of this monstrous frame-up."

The second resolution declared that Mooney and Billings "have been confined to California penitentiaries for twenty-one years the victims of a vicious anti-union frameup conceived and effected by unprincipled special interests," reaffirmed the belief of the convention in the absolute innocence of Mooney and Billings, threw the full strength of the convention behind the fight to free Mooney and Billings, declared in favor of petitioning Governor Frank F. Merriam of California "to grant Tom Mooney a full, complete and immediate pardon," and asked for the donation of $5,000 to the San Francisco Labor Council "to carry on the fight for Tom Mooney's freedom."

After discussion, the convention reaffirmed its previous declarations pronouncing the belief of the American Federation of Labor in the innocence of Mooney and Billings and demanding a new trial for them, and, in addition, urging their pardon.

"Volumes of evidence have been presented," the convention declared, "proving that subornation of perjury, perjury and collusion by representatives of the police department played a prominent part in connection with the trial of these two men. Each succeeding convention of the American Federation of Labor has insisted that these two men, convicted on perjured testimony, should be given a pardon."

"Mooney-Billings Committees" Criticized.—The report of the resolutions committee, which the convention adopted, pointed out that "in connection with the Mooney-Billings case there have developed activities on the part of those who seemingly used this case and their participation in the effort to secure a pardon as a vehicle through which to carry on a propaganda of their own. For this reason, and as the trade union movement in California, while vigorously working for the pardon of Mooney and Billings, has refused to endorse the propaganda activities of those who have made use of the Mooney-Billings case to accomplish purposes of their own," the committee included in its report the action of the last convention of the California State Federation of Labor on this subject.

The California Federation resolution expressed the belief that the continuance of the "Mooney-Billings committees will only result in further useless ballyhoo and, in addition to that, an entirely useless expenditure of money, which is spent not for continuing such meetings and ballyhoo work, but is also paid out in salaries and other expenses incidental thereto," and recommended that the secretary of the California State Federation of Labor "notify all local unions and central labor councils in the State of California that such committees have been discontinued;" that "the Federation desires to work wholeheartedly to cooperate with the bona fide attorneys now handling the Mooney case and its appeal to the United States Supreme Court, should such an appeal be filed, and their present appeal before the Supreme Court of this State," and that "the State Federation of Labor shall petition each of the local unions to contribute funds to this case, but that any such funds, when contributed, shall be made payable directly to the California State Federation of Labor and that such funds shall be paid by the secretary of this Federation to the bona fide attorneys representing Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings for legitimate prosecution of their appeals."

N

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIONS.

Affiliations of Locals With Central Bodies.—Acting on information that many local unions making up the national and international unions are not in affiliation with the central body in their locality, the convention urged the representatives of the national and international unions to request their local unions to affiliate themselves with their local central bodies. The convention pointed out that "a strong central body can be of great assistance to the local unions and the international representatives who visit the localities and seek the cooperation of the central bodies on behalf of their international organizations."

NATIONAL COUNCILS.

The convention approved the policy of the AFL Executive Council in forming National Councils composed of federal labor unions established in industries over which national unions do not exercise jurisdiction.

The formation of these National Councils, the Council reported to the convention, "represents the preliminary steps taken to the final formation of international unions. It is the purpose and intent of the Executive Council that the workers employed in industries in which federal labor unions function be more thoroughly united and solidified so that they can bring about uniformity in wage standards and unite in pressing forward organizing campaigns. When, in the judgment of the Executive Council a sufficient number of workers in the industries where councils are formed, are organized so that an international union can be launched with a reasonable assurance that it would be self-sustaining, recommendations will be made that international unions be formed and chartered by the American Federation of Labor."

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

Collective Bargaining Representatives.—The convention requested the AFL Executive Council to have introduced in the coming session of Congress and use every legitimate means for its enactment an amendment to the National Labor Relations Act containing the substance of the following provision of the Railway Labor Act passed by Congress in 1936:

"Employes shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing. The majority of any craft or class of employes shall have the right to determine who shall be the representatives of the craft or class for the purpose of this act."

The resolution quoted the following provision from the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 relative to the authority conferred on the National Labor Relations Board to determine the "appropriate" unit for collective bargaining proceedings:

"The Board shall decide in each case whether in order to insure to employes the full benefit of their right to self organization and to collective bargaining, and otherwise to effectuate the policies of this Act, the unit appropriate for the purposes of collective bargaining shall be the employer unit, craft unit, plant unit, or subdivision thereof."

Pointing out that this latitude given to the Labor Board in determining the "appropriate" unit for collective bargaining purposes and the decisions made by the Board in applying this provision have "resulted in the creation of confusion" which has been detrimental to collective bargaining, the convention held that this condition would be remedied by amending the National Labor Relations Act by including in it the collective bargaining provision contained in the Railway Labor Act. This amendment the convention believed would safeguard the right of employes to determine who shall be the representatives of the craft or class of workers concerned.

Enforcement.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution urging that "all pressure be brought to bear" to have Congress appropriate sufficient money "for the proper enforcement and maintenance of the Wagner Labor Relations Act."

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Administration of National Labor Relations Act.—After thorough discussion of the administration of the National Labor Relations Act by the National Labor Relations Board, the convention adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee, which concluded as follows:

"The National Labor Relations Board has, together with and through a number of its Regional Boards, repeatedly denied employes the right of designating the bargaining unit, and have thereby denied employes the right of selecting representatives of their own choosing with full freedom.

"The National Labor Relations Board through its Regional representatives has attempted to destroy the validity of contracts entered into between legitimate labor organizations and their employers, contracts which were in full conformity with public laws, including the National Labor Relations Act—in some instances with full knowledge of the facts involved, and in others without any apparent effort to ascertain the facts.

"These actions by the National Labor Relations Board and its Regional representatives have been committed without warrant or authority, and in violation of the spirit and specific intent of the National Labor Relations Act, with damage to the A. F. of L. units and to the decided advantage of C. I. O. affiliates.

"For these and other reasons your Committee recommends that this Fifty-Seventh Convention of the American Federation of Labor instruct its officers and the Executive Council to promptly assemble all of the facts and the evidence in proof of the mal-administration of the National Labor Relations Act, so that the rights of employes, together with the basic rights of trade unions may be protected, and so that Congress may be requested to amend this Act so as to prevent hereafter the usurped authority now being exercised by the Board and its agencies.

"Your Committee further recommends that the President and the Executive Council be authorized and instructed to seek immediate correction of the deplorable, disruptive and destructive condition above referred to, by petitioning the President of the United States for prompt and adequate relief.

"Your Committee further recommends that the amendment to the Act proposed by the Executive Council be approved by this convention, and that portion of the Executive Council's report be concurred in."

NAVY YARD EMPLOYES.

Abolition of Second and Third Class Rates of Pay.—The convention endorsed a resolution favoring "the abolition of the second and third class rates of pay, officially known as the intermediate and minimum rates, respectively, in the Navy Yard service, and level up the maximum rates of pay in the Navy Yard schedule of wages to the present highest rate in effect in the Navy Yard service, within the continental limits of the United States, either by departmental regulations or by legislation," and that "the Navy Yard schedule of wages as thus modified be established at the arsenals and in other industrial activities under the executive branch of our government, within the continental limits of the United States, provided that any existing higher rates of pay shall be maintained."

The resolution declared that "on September 7, 1921, the Navy Department issued a circular letter to the effect that six months thereafter all Navy Yard employes must qualify for the first class rate of pay"; that "this order was not actually put into effect, but in the years following a greater and greater proportion of workmen have been assigned to second and third class rates of pay"; that "during the economy period in particular, hundreds of first class men were laid off, and re-employed at second and third class rates of pay and some have not as yet been restored to the first class rate, which they formerly held"; that "hundreds of first class new men have been called into work at second and third class rates of pay, while performing first class work"; and that "Navy Yard work is of such high grade that all competent mechanics should receive first class pay."

NAVY YARDS.

Legislative Program.—The convention endorsed and referred to the AFL Executive Council for action in cooperation with the affected unions the following legislative program for Navy Yard employes:

"Abolition of second and third class mechanic rates.

"A thirty-hour work week for all navy yard employes.

"Optional retirement after thirty years of service.

"Establishment of a civil court of appeals.

"Appropriation of funds for drydock already authorized.

"Definite restrictions against the practice of using enlisted men to perform work which should rightfully be done by civilian mechanics.

"Naval vessels, munitions and other implements of war to be constructed and manufactured in government navy yards, arsenals or other government owned or operated establishments in order to reduce the cost of maintaining adequate military and naval defenses and to eliminate private profit, which will remove the incentive of war profiteers to provoke or aggravate wars and thus minimize the possibility of war; also to build up the government plants so as to be of maximum value in emergency.

"A fair share of the new naval vessels to be awarded to the Puget Sound navy yard for construction."

The resolution declared that "the navy yard employes are endeavoring to secure, through the activity of their labor unions, various legislative improvements, which will tend to shorten hours, improve working conditions, and otherwise be of benefit to both the government employes and the public generally" and that, "all of these objectives are in keeping with the program and policies of the American labor movement, and are deserving of support."

NAVY YARD EMPLOYES, BREMERTON, WASH.

Displacement by Relief Workers.—The convention approved a resolution calling for an investigation by the Works Progress Administration of the charge made by the Central Trades and Labor Council of Bremerton, Washington, that "in the Bremerton Navy Yard the Works Progress allotment of funds for emergency relief naval are being used for the employment of men on relief to replace regular yard employes in the maintenance and repair in the Public Works Department, and in labor gangs in the Supply Department, the workers formerly doing this work having been discharged or demoted."

In addition, the convention instructed the AFL Executive Council "to give its full assistance so that no employes of the United States Government, in any capacity, shall be replaced by relief workers."

NEGRO LABOR ORGANIZERS.

The convention referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council and President a resolution "authorizing President William Green to appoint several paid Negro labor organizers as a part of the staff of organizers of the American Federation of Labor."

NEGRO WORKERS.

Organization.—The convention nonconcurred in a resolution condemning the "color bar" against Negro workers which it was alleged is contained "in the constitutions and rituals" of a "large number of national and international unions," and "all forms of color and race discriminations as being anti-labor," and demanding and ordering "all international unions to eliminate the color bar and accept all workers as members without regard to race or color."

The convention reiterated "that the right of national and international unions to determine for themselves who shall or shall not be eligible to membership in their unions is inherent in those bodies so long as they do not extend their jurisdiction beyond the limitations set out in their charters from the American Federation of Labor." At the same time the convention expressed the hope "that such national and international unions as now bar Negroes from membership give mature consideration to the subject matter of modifying this restriction at their next national or international conventions."

O

OFFICE WORKERS.

National Council.—The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in calling a conference at Denver, during the convention period, of representatives of local unions of bookkeepers, stenographers, typists and assistants for the purpose of setting up a national council made up of federal labor unions of these workers, "chartered by the American Federation of Labor and which have remained loyal to the parent body."

OLDER WORKERS.

Discrimination.—The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council be requested to take up with the U. S. Department of Labor the question of having a study made of the discrimination by employers against workers over 40 years of age, a report to be submitted at the earliest time possible.

OLEOMARGARINE.

Tax.—The convention refused unanimous consent for the introduction of a resolution proposing a reduction in the tax on oleomargarine.

ORGANIZED LABOR.

Achievements.—In an address of welcome to the convention, Teller Ammons, Governor of Colorado, paid the following tribute to the organized labor movement:

"We believe in organized labor in Colorado.

"It is unnecessary to point out to you, who do the world's work, the tremendous achievements of organized labor in the past decades. It has enabled the laboring people through organized effort to place themselves on a parity with the forces of organized capital. Organized labor has brought about living wages and decent working conditions. Sane, but determined leadership has resulted in a never ending progress toward social and economic conditions beetween those who provide the plans and the capital and those who carry the plans into execution and bring profit to the capital invested.

"You had the vision to see and the courage to believe that the oppression of former years is not an essential element in the relationships between capital and labor today.

Colorado.—James A. Brownlow, vice president of the Colorado State Federation of Labor, in an address welcoming the delegates of the convention to Denver, gave the following summary of some of the outstanding events in the history of the organized labor movement in Colorado:

"No state in the Union of the age of the State of Colorado, which became a part of the Union in 1876, has had a more turbulent history as far as labor is concerned than this same state. The progress of Colorado is interwoven with the success and progress of the American labor movement. Triumphs and trials have been our share. The pioneering spirit that has made such states as Colorado possible is the same spirit that has made the labor movement not only in the United States and other countries a success, but also here in this city.

"Starting in 1901 and down through 1905 we had strike after strike. Many, many men died, you might say, that the labor movement might prosper. Following that we had that situation at Ludlow, with which each and every member of organized labor is familiar, where many more members of the organized labor movement, their wives and their children gave up their lives that the labor movement might progress. Following that we had the strikes in Pueblo of the steel companies, then the building trades strikes. But out of all that this state is going forward to a clearer conception of what the labor movement means, of its tremendous value to the state itself and to its citizens—and we are progressing as an American Federation of Labor organization."

ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN (A. F. of L.)

The convention concurred in the report of the AFL Executive Council on the organizing work of the American Federation of Labor during the year, which the Executive Council stated had added approximately a million new members to the A. F. of L. and urged "all national and international unions, city central and State bodies, to cooperate and assist in every way possible to make this campaign a success." The convention said "the necessity of financial support is fully recognized as necessary to carry out this program."

The Executive Council's report on the A. F. of L. organizing campaign, which the convention adopted, read as follows:

"The organizing work of the American Federation of Labor has been carried forward aggressively and in a highly successful way. Following the decision of the Supreme Court holding the National Labor Relations Act constitutional, workers in all lines of industry showed both a willingnes and a determination to become organized. The spirit of organization became very pronounced. The fear of discrimination and persecution was overcome when the workers became acquainted with the full meaning and import of the decision of the Supreme Court.

Million New Members Gained

"As a consequence of these developments the organizing staff of the American Federation of Labor has been very greatly increased. These organizers are carrying on a systematic campaign of organization in every state, city and community throughout the entire country. Great progress has been made in heretofore unorganized fields such as cement, aluminum, flour and cereal milling, agriculture, packing houses and canneries, white collar groups, and other miscellaneous industries.

"In addition, national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have inaugurated and carried forward most successful organizing campaigns. As a result of this joint coordinated organizing work carried forward by national and international unions and the American Federation of Labor, approximately a million new members have been added to the American Federation of Labor. All of these are dues-paying members, men and women who show their determination to become organized through the payment of initiation fees and monthly dues.

"It is the firm and determined purpose of the American Federation of Labor to organize the unorganized workers who desire to become organized and associated with an organization such as the American Federation of Labor, which for more than half a century has championed the principles of collective bargaining, of freedom to organize and to strike, and to use every honorable and legal means in the promotion of strikes for high wages and improved conditions of employment. It is the fixed and determined purpose of the Executive Council to go on and on in support of campaigns launched by the American Federation of Labor and of national and international unions affiliated with it for the purpose of organizing the unorganized workers of the Nation.

Extension of Organizing Work

"We are confident we will win in this great contest. We are sure the workers of the Nation will turn to a responsible organization such as the American Federation of Labor, firmly established for more than half a century in the economic and industrial life of the Nation.

"The fighting spirit of the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor has been aroused as never before. The word defeat cannot be found in the vocabulary of those who fight and serve the American Federation of Labor. Our efforts to organize will be increased, our organizing staff will carry on a militant and aggressive organizing campaign. Our state federations of labor and city central bodies, purged of those who would transform them into agencies of a dual, rival organization, united in a common purpose and established upon a sound and solid American Federation of Labor basis, will take such action as may be necessary in order to protect and advance the interests of the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor. We are going forward, determined to win. No force will stop this onward march of the American Federation of Labor to organize the unorganized of the Nation.

Larger Organizing Fund

"In order to continue the aggressive, militant organizing campaign which is now being carried on by the American Federation of Labor, the Council recommends that the Convention authorize the continuance of the assessment of one cent per member per month, which was endorsed and approved by the conference of representatives of national and international unions which was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 24-25, 1937. With the financial income to the American Federation of Labor which will flow from the payment of this one cent assessment we can not only continue but increase and accelerate the organizing campaign which has been so successfully carried on during the past year. The Council regards this question as of tremendous importance. We urge favorable action upon it by the Convention."

P

PANAMA CANAL AND PANAMA RAILROAD EMPLOYES.

Appointment of Sons to Naval Academy.—The convention instructed the American Federation of Labor "to assist and further legislation that will be before the next session of Congress, which will provide for appointments to the Naval Academy by the Governor of the Panama Canal from among sons of employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad on the Isthmus of Panama." The resolution pointed out that Congress has already enacted legislation providing for similar appointments by the Governor of the Panama Canal to the West Point Military Academy.

Legislative Representative in Washington.—The convention adopted a resolution recommending that every effort be made through the Department of Labor and the Office of the Secretary of Labor to provide that the chosen representatives of organized labor on the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad be allowed to proceed to Washington under instructions regardless of position, leave or quarters status.

In explaining the paramount importance of this recommendation, the resolution said:

"The present national administration has approved a policy of collective bargaining between employers and employes and is fostering the principle of selective representation.

"The organized employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad have found it necessary because of their geographical location a long way from the United States to send selected representatives to Washington each year for legislative purposes.

"Such representatives have always been financed by the Panama Canal Metal Trades Council, the government incurring no expense through such procedure.

"The Lloyd-La Follette Act specifically gives the federal employes the

(Continued on Page 6)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 5)

right to representation before Congress either as an individual or as a group representative without reduction in compensation or position."

Saturday Half Holiday.—Directing attention to the fact that the employes on the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad are excluded from the provisions of the act of March 3, 1931, which provides that "four hours, exclusive of time for luncheon, shall constitute a day's work on Saturday throughout the year, with pay or earnings for the day the same as on other days when full time is worked," the convention recommended that the employes of the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad be included in the act by "executive order."

Shorter Hours.—The convention concurred with a resolution directing that every effort be made "to have the shorter work week, not to exceed forty hours per week, applied to all the employes of the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad on the Isthmus of Panama."

The resolution pointed out that although the Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1935 provides a forty-hour week with no reduction in salaries for certain employes of the United States Government, "employes of the Panama Canal, not being considered employes of the United States Government, have not been allowed the advantages of the forty-hour week," and that less than half of the Panama Canal employes and less than one-third of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad employes receive the forty-hour week.

Twenty-Five-Year Optional Retirement.—The convention reaffirmed its declaration of previous years recommending that the American Federation of Labor assist the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad employes in a liberalization of their exclusive retirement act to allow optional retirement after twenty-five years of service at fifty-five years of age with full annuity.

The resolution on this subject which the convention considered pointed out that "climatic conditions incident to employment on the Panama Canal and the Panama Railroad are very rigorous due to the high temperature, great humidity, and the actinic rays of the tropical sun"; and that "the effects of such climate on the health of white men, women and children are accumulative as an employe grows older and his resistance is undermined," and that "large numbers of employes now entering the service of the Government on the Panama Canal are all of such an age as will require them to work more than thirty years in the tropics to reach the present retirement of sixty or sixty-two."

The resolution also declared that Congress recently passed a bill "reducing the period of military service in the Canal Zone for military personnel from three to two years" because of the climatic conditions.

Wage Differential.—Pointing out that all the employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad "except policemen, firemen, school teachers, and postal employes" receive, under existing law, "a differential up to 25 per cent over rates paid for similar work in the United States," and that "there seems to be no satisfactory reason why these employes should not receive equal consideration for their labor with the other employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad," the convention resolved to do everything possible to obtain the full wage differential for all employes of the Canal and the Railroad.

PANAMA CANAL EMPLOYES.

Pension Legislation for Widows.—The convention concurred with a resolution supporting "legislation or amendments to legislation which will extend to widows of United States citizens, annuitants, of the Canal Zone Retirement Act, benefits of two-thirds of the annuities received by the employe before his death."

In emphasizing the necessity for this legislation the resolution said:

"The women of the Canal Zone, after long periods in the tropics, with the possibility of being left widows shortly after their husband's retirement, must certainly become objects of charity or else try to compete in the open market for unsuitable work.

"The salaries of the employes involved are not sufficient to leave any surplus to make these widows independent of the necessity of asking employment or seeking aid from others.

"The Panama Canal employes have a special retirement act because of the unusual climatic and adverse living conditions in the tropics."

PANAMA CANAL.

Alien Employes.—Pointing out that "on August 15, 1937, employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad approximated 13,000 and of this number 3,000 were citizens of the United States and 9,000 were aliens—subjects of European nations, an approximate ratio of one United States citizen to three aliens"; that "there are more than 3,000 aliens in the Canal and railroad organizations occupying skilled or semi-skilled positions which should be held by United States citizens," and that "there are now millions of workers in the United States who are unemployed," the convention instructed the American Federation of Labor to have introduced and endeavor to have passed during the next session of Congress a bill providing that within five years after its enactment the following positions on the Panama Canal, and the Panama Railroad Company on the Isthmus of Panama "shall be filled by American citizens, on the gold roll, compensated in accordance with wage policies in effect on the effective date" of the act: artisan, baggagemaster, baker, blacksmith, blueprinter, boaswain, brakeman, butcher, captain, carpenter, calker, compositor, cook, checker, chauffeur, engineer, fireman, foreman, money counter, office helper, oiler, operator (air compressor), operator (crane), operator (motorboat), operator (pump), operator (telephone), policeman, printer, riveter, salesman, secretary (clubhouse), signalman, steward, storeman, tailor, teacher, upholsterer, vulcanizer, water-tender, and wheelwright, in the employ of the Panama Canal.

Employment of U. S. Citizens.—Declaring that there is no legislation providing for the employment of citizens of the United States only in skilled and semi-skilled positions in the construction and maintenance of the enormous and elaborate defense works and reservations connected with the Panama Canal, the convention expressed the belief that legislation should be passed prescribing that the "following positions be filled by American citizens by the Army and Navy in all maintenance, operation, construction and contract work on the Panama Canal: artisan, baggagemaster, baker, blacksmiths, blueprinter, boaswain, brakeman, butcher, captain, carpenter, calker, compositor, cook, checker, chauffeur, engineer, firemen, foreman, money counter, office helper, oiler, operator (crane) operator (motorboat), operator (pump), operator (telephone), policeman, printer, riveter, salesman, steward, storeman, tailor, teacher, upholsterer, vulcanizer, water-tender, and wheelwright."

In order to achieve this object the convention instructed the A. F. of L. Legislative Committee "to introduce and aid a bill during the next session of Congress providing that no person other than citizens of the United States shall be employed in the positions outlined above by the United States Army or the United States Navy or contractors, directly or otherwise, in any of its or their departments or branches in connection with the work on the Isthmus of Panama."

Motion Picture Operators—Wages.—The convention referred to the officers of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Motion Picture Operators a resolution instructing the AFL convention "to cooperate with the Panama Metal Trades Council in their efforts to secure an adequate rate of pay for motion picture operators on the Panama Canal." The resolution said "motion picture operators employed on the Panama Canal are distinctly underpaid in comparison with other crafts in that locality" and "are receiving rates of pay materially less than union rates paid in the United States."

PEN AND PENCIL WORKERS.

Organization.—The convention adopted a resolution urging the officers of the American Federation of Labor to endeavor to thoroughly organize pen and pencil workers throughout the A. F. of L. jurisdiction.

The resolution said that "the pen and pencil manufacturing industry, employing large groups of workers, is but poorly organized, and thus through unfair competition, by reason of low wages and poor working conditoins, constitutes a constant menace to the standards of such well organized groups as Pen and Pencil Workers Union No. 19593 of Janesville, Wis."

PENSIONS FOR THE INDIGENT AGED.

The convention concurred with the report of the AFL Executive Council on pensions for the indigent aged, provided by State laws with a subsidy from the Federal Government, which is pledged to match up to $15 a month State old age pensions if the State law has been approved by the Social Security Board. The Federal subsidy, the report said, "builds upon existing practice to make assistance for the aged in need more adequate." In describing the extent of assistance for the aged poor and the stipulations for federal grants, the Executive Council said:

"Old age pensions are paid out of public funds and express a sense of social obligation. At the close of 1934, 25 states and 2 territories had old age assistance laws, but in 3 states the law was inoperative due to lack of funds. In 10 states only the provisions were state-wide. Forty-one states, Alaska, and the District of Columbia now have passed laws which have been approved.

Federal Grants

"Federal grants to State pension are made on condition that the plans be state-wide, a liberalization of plans to limit required residence in the state to 5 years, fixing the eligible age requirement at 65, together with administrative standards and the right of appeal. Old age pensions build upon old poor-law principles and methods of relief. A means test is the first administrative step. The means test as applied in most states involves investigation of the person's property and savings to determine whether these exceed prescribed limits, the ability of his family and relatives to support him, and legal provisions transferring property to the state upon the death of the recipient of assistance."

Pensions Are Small

In addition, the Executive Council emphasized the inadequate amounts paid to pensioners by many of the state systems. In this connection the Council submitted figures prepared by the Bureau of Research Statistics of the Social Security Board showing that for April, 1937, 42 States with approved plans had 1,297.321 aged on their pension lists.

The average pension per recipient was very low, $18.71. In 16 States the average amount exceeded $20 and in 28 States, $15. California paid its pensioners the highest average monthly amount, $31.37; Colorado comes next with $27.65; Connecticut pays $25.41; the District of Columbia, $25.21; Idaho, $23.21; Maine, $20.02.

Among the States which pay their indigent aged unusually small monthly pensions are the following: Vermont, $11.92; Missouri, $11.42; Alabama, $11.38; Florida, $11.31; Connecticut, $10.70; Kentucky, $9.98; New Mexico, $9.79; Arkansas, $9.04; Mississippi, $4.08.

With regard to the number of old age pensioners Texas heads the list with 127,772 pensioners next comes Illinois with 120,371; followed by Ohio with 103,969. There are 91,662 pensioners in New York; 81,097 in Pennsylvania. Hawaii comes at the end of the list with 596 pensioners.

Federal Leadership and Planning

Firm in its belief that definite Federal leadership and planning must be extended to the field of old-age assistance, the Council concluded its report as follows:

"There is definite progress in that there are channels through which assistance is available to the needy aged in so many states. The amounts payable are most inadequate in 13 states and lacking altogether in 7. Serious problems are developing in this field of which the need to keep out of politics probably comes first. There must be Federal leadership and planning if progress is not dependent on pressure groups. There should be minimum standards necessary for approval for Federal benefits.

"Some of the issues upon which Federal leadership will be useful in policy making are:

"Definition of need. What shall be the limits of incomes and property of recipients of assistance; must this property be transferred to the State;

"Shall relatives be held responsible for providing for aged dependents; is it just or expedient to disfranchise recipients of old age assistance and how can such proposals be forestalled;

"Reduction in the years of state residence required, on a basis of Federal subsidy;

"Age at which person becomes eligible now ranges from 65 to 70; should this be lowered in view of industry's unwillingness to hire older workers."

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The convention requested the AFL Executive Council to undertake a thorough study of the entire question of physical examinations in connection with employment. The convention had under consideration a resolution calling for absolute opposition to physical examination of any kind or sort until such time as the Federal and State laws fully protect those workers who may be removed from industry as the result of physical examinations.

While recognizing "the abuses and far reaching effect to the individual of physical examinations as a condition of employment," and being conversant with "the variety of conditions under which physical examinations may be applied," the convention did not believe it advisable "to adopt a definite and detailed policy on the question of physical examinations until more adequate study of the problem has been made, and international unions whose members are affected given an opportunity of contributing their knowledge and experience on the question to the Executiv Council."

PICKETING EMBASSIES.

The convention opposed the picketing of embassies or legations, prohibited by S. J. Res. 191 (considered by the first session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress), except that the legislation proposed "shall in no way restrict the use of picketing for the purpose of legitimate trade union action."

The AFL Executive Council reported to the convention that "it has been the practice of various organizations when they feel offended at something done in foreign countries to march up and down before the embassies and legations (in the District of Columbia) carrying placards intended to harrass the representatives of foreign governments." Following protests made by foreign governments the State Department of the U. S. Government asked that the picketing be prohibited. In compliance with this request the Senate passed S. J. Res. 191 prohibiting this practice, with an amendment offered at the request of the American Federation of Labor by Senator La Follette "which provided that nothing contained in the resolution shall be construed to prohibit picketing as the result of a bona fide labor dispute regarding the alteration, repair or construction of either buildings or premises occupied for business purposes wholly or in part by representatives of foreign governments." The House failed to consider the resolution. The AFL Executive Council reported, in addition, that "it is our purpose and intention to secure an amendment to the amendment offered by Senator La Follette, providing for the inclusion of cooks, waiters and musicians catering in embassies."

PLANT, ROD.

Fraternal Delegate From Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.—The convention presented Rod Plant, a member of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America and the fraternal delegate from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress with an engraved watch as a token of appreciation of the officers and delegates. The convention also presented Mrs. Plant with a watch.

POST OFFICE AND RAILWAY MAIL LABORERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

A. F. of L. Charter.—The convention expressed its gratification at the action of the AFL Executive Council in issuing a charter to the National Association of Post Office and Railway Mail Laborers.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Fair Labor Policy.—Declaring that "Postmaster General James A. Farley and other policy-forming officials of the postal service have repeatedly declared themselves as recognizing the right of organization by the employes and of spokesmanship through their duly elected representatives," and that "this policy is one inaugurated by the present administration of the Post Office Department and is a marked improvement from previous personnel relations," the convention extended "its appreciation to the officials of the Post Office Department for this liberal reform."

In addition, the convention urged that Post Office officials "take immediate steps to impress upon their subordinates in the field the duty and responsibility of observing and furthering recognition of the unions and the sincere practice of collective bargaining with respect to administrative matters," and expressed "the sincere hope that this example will be followed by the extension of the above principles to all government establishments in which they do not exist."

POSTAL LABORERS.

The convention expressed its gratification at the enactment, through the support of the American Federation of Labor, of H. R. 1609 which provides, among other benefits, "that whenever any substitute laborer, watchman, or messenger (in the postal service) is appointed to a permanent position the substitute service performed shall be computed in determining the eligibility of such person to grade 2 on the basis of 306 days of 8 hours constituting a year's service," and that "effective at the beginning of the first quarter following approval of this act, all laborers, watchmen, and messengers who have not progressed to grade 2 shall be promoted to that grade provided that they have the necessary credit of 306 days of 8 hours each constituting a year's service."

POSTAL SERVICE.

Non-Civil Service Employes.—Declaring that "the United States Civil Service is a protection to government employes against undesirable working conditions and safeguards their positions against unfair labor practices and lay-offs," but that "during the past several years non-civil service employes have been introduced into the civil service," thus tending to limit the number of regular civil service employes and menacing the entire civil service system, the convention, in view of the fact that "the Postal Unions have gone on record as being opposed to the use of these non-civil service employes except in emergencies," declared its opposition "to the use of non-civil employes in the postal service except during bona fide emergencies.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Economic Conditions.—Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, sent the following message to William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor and chairman of the convention, extending greetings to the delegates and giving a terse survey of improved economic conditions:

"Please extend my hearty greetings to the delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention and my hope that your sessions will be productive of constructive plans for the improvement of conditions and for cooperation to this end of workers, management and the public.

"It is reported to me that employment and payrolls have increased greatly in the past year. Very definite strides have been made in the last four and a half years toward the goal set in the organic act creating the Department of Labor. Increased incomes and greater opportunities for employment of wage earners have so raised purchasing power that farmers, merchants, manufacturers and investors all have shared in the benefits.

"Continued cooperation among workers and management will serve to consolidate these substantial gains and enable us to go on to greater prosperity and to better standards of living.

"I wish much that I could come to the Convention, but as you know, I find it necessary to start my return to the East tomorrow."

PROGRESSIVE MINERS OF AMERICA.

Affiliation With the American Federation of Labor.—The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in accepting the Progressive Miners of America into affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. In its report to the convention the Executive Council said that the affiliated relationship "has proved to be most satisfactory and beneficial to all concerned, * * * The Progressive Miners of America * * * have shown themselves to be in full accord with the aims, principles and policies of the American Federation of Labor and are loyal to it. We look forward to the development of a most helpful and beneficial reciprocal relationship between the Progressive Miners of America and the American Federation of Labor."

PUBLIC CONTRACTS ACT.

Endorsement.—The convention reiterated its support of the Public Contracts Act (Walsh-Healey Act), providing for the maintenance of minimum labor standards in the performance of Federal Government contracts for supplies or materials, which became effective on September 28, 1936.

The AFL Executive Council reported to the convention that the Act, limited to contracts amounting to more than $10,000, contains the following requirements: "(a) the contractor must be the manufacturer or regular dealer in the materials, supplies or equipment to be manufactured or used in the performance of the contract; (b) all persons employed by such contractor must be paid not less than the minimum wages determined by the Secretary of Labor to be the prevailing minimum wages on similar work, or in the particular or similar industries currently operating in the locality of the contract; (c) employes of such contractor must not work more than eight hours in any one day, or forty hours in any one week; (d) no male employe under sixteen, and no female employe under eighteen, nor any convict labor may be employed by such contractor; (e) no employment connected with the contract is to be under insanitary, hazardous or dangerous working conditions and the approval of the State Inspector is prima facie evidence of compliance with this requirement."

The convention commended the AFL Executive Council "for the close contact it has kept with the developments under the Walsh-Healey Act" and "for its determination to have amendments introduced in the next session of Congress to strengthen the revisions and extend the scope" of the Act. The Council reported to the convention that it had kept in close touch with the administration of the Act "to make sure that the wage earners will derive maximum benefits from this legislation."

Extension to Contracts Under $10,000.—The convention declared that it was the policy of the American Federation of Labor to secure an amendment to the Walsh-Healey Law designed to have the $10,000 limitation materially reduced.

PUERTO RICO.

Political Status as U. S. Territory.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution calling on the American Federation of Labor to urge the President, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States that the Island of Puerto Rico and other islands under Spanish sovereignty ceded to the United States by the Kingdom of Spain in the treaty of peace between the two countris signed December 10, 1898, and "designated under the name of Puerto Rico and as an organized territory, are hereby declared to be a part of the territory of the United States of America and subject to the dominion thereof," and "that the present Organic Act and other Federal laws now in force in Puerto Rico and all local laws enacted by the legislature of Puerto Rico and now in force are hereby continued with full force and effect until otherwise provided, to comply with the duties and obligations of the people of Puerto Rico toward the United States."

In explaining the purpose of the resolution, Delegate Santiago Iglesias, of the Puerto Rico Free Federation of Working Men, and also Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico to the United States Congress, said:

"The Free Federation of Working Men of Puerto Rico were organized after the American nation went over there, and it has proclaimed that the only salvation for the future is the permanent union of the people of Puerto Rico and the United States. It has not been generally understood by many of our brothers over here that the uncertainties of our political status have been brought about largely by the policy of Congress of favoring us by special legislation considered as possibly inconsistent with a declaration of incorporation.

"Puerto Rico wants to be a part of the United States forever. Notwithstanding the fact that the Supreme Court of the United States has declared that Puerto Rico is an organized territory, we are treated yet as a possession. We want to be part of the family and to obtain this it is absolutely necessary that the Congress of the United States make the declaration that Puerto Rico, after forty years of education, has created institutions already very much similar to those that prevail in the nation. We want those institutions to be kept forever. It is believed by a substantial part of our citizens that such a declaration by Congress will completely and finally put to rest those feelings of uncertainty of what Puerto Rico is going to be in the future.

"The masses of the people, the producers, the men who work, the women and the children in the generations to come want to be sure that these institutions of freedom that we have shall remain with us, so that we may build up a better condition and a better life."

R

RAILROAD EMPLOYES RETIREMENT ACT.

The convention extended its "warm congratulations" to the railroad unions for having secured the enactment of the law providing retirement annuities for employes of "any express company, sleeping car company or carrier by railroad subject to Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act," and also congratulated the AFL Executive Council "for militant and effective cooperation" in securing the legislation.

"Pensions will be paid to all railroad employes who were in service on August 29, 1935, when they reach the age of 65," the Council reported to the convention. "Workers who are 60 years of age or over who have become totally and permanently disabled, or persons who are 60 years of age or over who have had 30 years of service may retire, but they will have their pensions reduced by one-fifteenth for each year they are less than 65. Those having 30 years of service and become totally and permanently disabled may retire at any age on full pension.

"Under the new law retirement is not compulsory. Unlike the old law, employes may now continue in service after the age of 65 if they are rendering satisfactory service, without having their pensions reduced. Moreover, the maximum pension was $120 per month, based on a maximum of 30 years of service, whereas now, there is no limit on service rendered after January 1, 1937, thus enabling the younger employes to receive larger pensions when they retire, because they will pay more.

"In computing the annuities, prior service may be counted only if the worker was in the service or employment relation of a carrier or totally and permanently disabled on the enactment date, August 29, 1935, whereas formerly, if an employe returned to service after the enactment date, he could count his prior service.

"Minimum annuities are provided under the new law. An employe who at age 65 has worked 20 years at an average salary of $50 will be paid $40 per month on retirement. If he is being paid less than $50 and more than $20, he receives 80 per cent of his average wages per month, and if his wages are $20 per month or less, he receives full pay.

"Finally, death benefits are provided for. Under the old law, when a pensioned railroad worker died, his widow received only one-half of his pension for one year. Under the new legislation, she will be entitled to 4 per cent of the wages he earns from January 1, 1937, until his death."

With regard to contributions to the retirement fund the Executive Council said: "Each employe during the calendar years 1937-8-9 shall pay a tax of 2¾ per cent; 1940-1-2, 3 per cent; 1943-4-5, 3¼ per cent; 1946-7-8, 3½ per cent, and thereafter 3¾ per cent. The same rate of taxation applies to the employers."

RAILROAD OPERATION.

Safety.—The convention congratulated the Railroad Unions on securing the enactment of S. 29 passed by the first session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress. The AFL Executive Council reported to the convention that the measure promotes "the safety of employes and travelers on railroads by requiring common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to install, inspect, test, repair and maintain block signal systems, interlocking, automatic, train-stop, train-control, cab-signal devices and other appliances, methods and systems intended to promote the safety of railroad operation." Describing the measure as "an important legislative victory" for the railroad unions, the convention stressed the contribution provided by the law "to the safety of the traveling public," and thanked the AFL Executive Council for its cooperation in writing the measure into statute law.

RAILWAY EMPLOYES DEPARTMENT.

Employment and Compensation.—The information regarding employment and compensation of railroad workers contained in the AFL Executive Council's report was recommended by the convention as worthy of serious consideration in studying the facts regarding railroad employes and wages.

"According to reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission," the Council said, "the average number of employes on Class I Steam Railroads in the United States (excluding Switching and Terminal Companies) increased from 994,078 in 1935 to 1,065,970 in 1936 or 7.2 per cent, while their total compensation increased from $1,643,21[illegible],114 to $1,848,498,422 or 12.5 per cent. During the first five months of 1937, for which reports are available, the average number of employes increased to 1,111,375 or 7.8 per cent over the 1,030,684 employes reported for the first five months of 1936, while total compensation increased from $744,925,063 during the first five months of 1936 to $809,771,681 during the same period in 1937 or 8.7 per cent. The larger increase in compensation during the year 1936 reflects the reduction in part-time employment by reason of the fact that the number of hours worked increased more than the number of employes.

"Employment in the maintenance of equipment departments increased from 271,213 in 1935 to 296,419 in 1936 or 9.3 per cent, while total compensation increased from $399,571,317 to $470,947,676 or 17.9 per cent during the same period. During the first five months of 1937 the average number of employes in the mechanical department reached 319,276, which is an increase of 10.1 per cent over the 289,987 employes reported for the first five months of 1936, while the compensation paid to these employes increased 12.7 per cent from $189,209,634 during the first five months of 1936 to $213,261,837 during the same period in 1937. These data indicate that the reduction in part-time employment among the mechanical forces, who were the hardest hit during the depression, was even greater than that shown for all railroad employes."

Membership.—The convention commended the achievements of the Railway Employes Department for its increasing membership and the higher standard of living for railroad workers brought about by union activities, both in wages, retirement legislation and the adjudication of disputes and commented favorably on the "machinery of the department and its relations to both employers and government."

Organization Gains.—High commendation for the success of the Railway Employes Department and its affiliated organizations in organizing "the unorganized and eliminating the obnoxious company union from the railroad industry," as revealed in the report of the AFL Executive Council, was registered by the convention.

Pointing out that the organization campaign which began in June, 1933, "is rapidly coming to a successful conclusion," the Executive Council said: "Only a few railroads remain and with the work now being done by a full force of organizers in the field, the task should be completed in the very near future. Over a hundred railroads have been organized and agreements secured for the mechanical trades during this period, and practically the only large railroads which remain to be organized are the Pennsylvania, Great Northern and Santa Fe Railroads. The value of the standard railroad labor organizations having been demonstrated beyond any doubt, it will not be difficult to convince the employes on these railroads of the ineffectiveness of their company unions, and make the organization of the railroad industry complete, insofar as the mechanical trades are concerned. The other standard railroad labor organizations are making equally good progress."

Retirement Act.—The achievement of the standard railroad labor organizations in having definitely established a permanent retirement system for all railroad employes with the enactment of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 and its accompanying tax act was lauded by the convention as a definite victory for labor organization in the railroad industry.

Wages.—Among the gains resulting from strong organization of railroad employes the convention commended the facts brought out in the AFL Executive Council's report on the achievements of the Railway Employes Department of the American Federation of Labor. The report said that in February, 1937, the chief executives of all the railroad unions except the train, enginemen and yard service organizations adopted a program demanding a general increase in wages of 20 cents per hour applied to hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, or piece rate so as to produce the same rate of interest for all employes; guarantee of full time compensation for all regular assigned forces; guarantee of two-thirds of full time compensation for all stand-by forces. Upon the refusal of the chief executives of fifteen railroads to refuse to offer more than two cents an hour increase the dispute was referred to the National Mediation Board which negotiated an agreement, accepted by representatives of the railroads and the employes, which provided an increase in wages of five cents per hour, applied so as to produce the same increase irrespective of method of payment, with the provision that share-the-work practices would be terminated on the request of the general chairmen of the railroad organizations, the purpose of the termination being to bring about regular employment to such forces as are required by each carrier, the forces to be increased or decreased in conformity with seniority rules.

"This is perhaps the greatest cooperative wage movement in the history of organized labor," the AFL Executive Council said. "Through negotiation, and without the loss of a single day's work the fourteen cooperating standard railroad labor organizations representing about eight hundred thousand railroad workers secured an increase in wages amounting to almost a hundred million dollars annually. Not a single company union was represented in the negotiations, and the value of the standard railroad labor organizations in improving the well-being of the employes they represent was again amply demonstrated."

RELIEF LEGISLATION.

The convention deplored the action of the United States Congress in refusing to raise the amount of money appropriated for the relief of the unemployed workers for the fiscal year 1938 from $1,500,000,000, recommended by the President, to $2,200,000,000, urged by the AFL Executive Council in order to prevent the laying off of thousands of WPA workers. The relief bill also provided that no alien illegally within the limits of the United States or aliens who have not filed declaration of intention to become citizens shall be employed, and that the prevailing rates of wages shall be paid on relief work. In addition to deploring "curtailment of relief to bona fide sufferers from unemployment," the convention reinstructed the AFL Executive Council "to continue vigorous efforts to prevent lay-offs from government enterprises of worthy citizens unable to secure employment in private industry," and stressed "the importance of maintaining prevailing wage standards" on relief work.

RESOLUTIONS.

The 1936 convention of the American Federation of Labor amended the A. F. of L. Constitution by providing that all resolutions, petitions, memorials and appeals to be considered by the convention must be received by the secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor thirty days immediately preceding the opening of the convention, with the exception that resolutions approved by national conventions of national or international unions or state Federations of Labor held during this thirty-day period, shall be received up to five days prior to the convening date of the convention. All resolutions and similar documents received after these stipulated periods or during the convention must be referred to the AFL Executive Council which is required, in turn, to refer such proposals to the convention with the understanding that their acceptance depends upon the unanimous consent of the convention.

Under these rules the AFL Executive Council submitted to the convention at its opening session eighty-five resolutions which had been received before the expiration of the time limit. On the third day of the convention the Council submitted nineteen resolutions which had been received after the expiration of the thirty-day time period.

RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

The convention adopted the report of the Committee on Rules and Order of Business after defeating a motion to amend the Committee's report by requiring at least 100 delegates instead of 30 (recommended by the Committee) to move the previous question.

RURAL LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL FEDERATION.

Longevity Pay for Federal Employes.—The convention received from the National Federation of Rural Letter Carriers, an A. F. of L. affiliate but not represented in the convention, an endorsement of the Longevity Pay Bill and other legislative recommendations contained in resolutions for civil service employes.

S

SCHOOLS.

Democratic Policies.—The convention approved the general purposes of a resolution which urged "education committees of all affiliated bodies to assist teachers in securing democratic working conditions and in providing schools which shall exemplify, in their structure and operation, the fundamental principles of an American democracy," with the demand that "affiliated bodies of the American Federation of Labor insist that teachers in local communities have free choice in joining organizations and the same opportunities as other skilled workers to affiliate on a fraternal basis with their fellow workers."

The resolution contained the following statement regarding the undemocratic policies alleged to be widespread in the school system:

"Current pronouncements of leading educators and discussions at the 1937 convention of the American Federation of Teachers have revealed that many school systems of America are operated on an undemocratic militaristic basis, so that classroom teachers live and work in a constant atmosphere of fear.

"Teachers in many schools are compelled to join non-union organizations not of their own choosing and are instructed how to vote on important matters.

"In certain states non-union organizations with dues of twenty-five cents to a dollar a year are being established to prevent affiliation of teachers with organized labor.

"Autocratic control of public schools dictated by outside pressure groups threatens the cherished position of our public schools in preparing children for intelligent participation in democratic government.

"Conditions in leading European countries have proved that the American labor movement can continue to exist only so long as democratic institutions remain."

In endorsing the purpose of the resolution the convention said:

"The American Federation of Labor was one of the pioneer agencies in this country in the establishment of free public instruction. It has ever jealously guarded the fundamental democratic development of our public school system since its inception. It must continue to do so for it is not only true to say that the labor movement can progressively continue only under democratic institutions, but the democratic institutions can continue to progress in safety only so long as there is a labor movement."

In addition, the convention recommended that "education committees and labor everywhere watch carefully the conditions under which our public schools are administered," adding:

"The American Federation of Labor has ever and will continue to support teachers and other employes of our public school system and higher institutions of learning in their demand for complete freedom of organization."

Federal Aid.—The convention deferred until the report of the President's Advisory Committee on Education is available a resolution which asks the American Federation of Labor to "go on record in favor of a federal grant for education, to be distributed to the several states with provisions which will protect the funds from political control, prevent discrimination because of race or color, guarantee a sufficient number of school days and school years for every child; but leave the operation, supervision and structure of the curricula to local boards of education."

In explaining its action the convention said:

"The American Federation of Labor in previous conventions has expressed the approval of the equalization of educational opportunities for all. It has in the past supported the general principle of Grants-in-Aid for education. The President's Advisory Committee on Education is now engaged in exploring the whole question of the relationship of the Federal Government to public education in this country. The results of that study are likely to be fndamental and far-reaching."

Because of the pending investigation by the Advisory Committee, the convention said that "while approving the general principle of Federal aid," it considered "it necessary to await this report before determining the precise way in which such grants shall be made. Upon the submission of this report the officers of the American Federation of Labor and the permanent Committee on Education will be in a position to take such action as may be warranted."

SCOTTSBORO CASE.

In lieu of a resolution condemning "the long, unjust and barbarous imprisonment of the Scottsboro boys" and calling "upon the courts of the State of Alabama to seek some measure of expiation of the crime against these tortured and innocent boys by giving the remaining boys their freedom," the convention adopted the following declaration:

"The action of the United States Supreme Court in reversing decisions of the Alabama Courts on two different occasions in connection with the Scottsboro case is evidence that the highest judicial tribunal of our country found sufficient reason to cast doubt on the judicial actions in connection with the case which took place within the state of Alabama. In view of the fact that the defendants have been placed in jeopardy of their lives on several occasions and the decisions of the Supreme Court in reviewing their appeals, we are of the opinion that the public authorities in the state of Alabama should bring this case to a close and avoid further review by the United States Supreme Court by giving the remaining defendants their freedom."

SHORTER WORK DAY.

Thirty-Hour Week.—The convention directed attention to the enormous increase in the output of labor under machine production, the alarming persistency of the long work-week and low wages, and the continuance of a large unemployed army, reported by the AFL Executive Council to number 7,800,000.

On the specific question of unemployment coupled with larger output by labor the convention said:

"In analyzing this glaring problem of workless millions threatening the creation of a permanent army of unemployed on the one hand as contrasted with our vast national resources and actual and potential wealth-producing capacity on the other, we find that the moving cause of this hard situation lies in the steady rise of productive efficiency and the added fact that the workers wages have not been increased and labor hours shortened in equitable proportion to this upward production trend.

"We find too, that while average labor hours, in response to the long

(Continued on Page 7)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 6)

continued drive of the American Federation of Labor, have registered a substantial reduction, that the expansion of productive efficiency has gone steadily on during this same period and at a record pace.

"From 1929 to 1935 there was an estimated 25 per cent increase in production per worker per hour in manufacturing industries and an estimated 10 per cent increase in production per year in all industries during this period.

"All the evidence at hand shows that this rising production trend per unit of worker goes steadily on and that substantially less workers are required now than were required in 1929 to turn out the same volume of production.

"According to the estimate by the Labor Department and WPA in their joint study of productivity, it would now require an increase in production of 20 per cent above the 1929 level before unemployment can be reduced to the 1929 average, which even then was high. During the current year production attained a level well abreast of the 1929 all-time high production mark but without reducing unemployment within striking distance of the 1929 average."

The convention also again emphasized the "overwhelming importance of the steady advance of technocracy and the continued increase on a steadily ascending scale of production per unit of worker through new means and methods and multiplied machine refinements.

"This constant expansion of production efficiency is the big fact of our time," the convention declared. "Its ramifications and reactions reach into every avenue of the life and wash the shores of all human endeavor. It has created a problem of surplus and the disposition of that surplus that is more perplexing than the periods of scarcity in the crude tool days. To master the machine and make it serve the public welfare is now the supreme challenge confronting Society. Its accomplishment will make for larger life and soften the struggle for existence of all workers to a degree surpassing all that has gone before. To this end we should devote our highest efforts."

Confronted with the indisputable facts revealed by its survey of the unemployment problem and the displacement of labor by machinery and technological advavncement, the convention declared that "the American Federation of Labor must address itself with renewed resolution to the wider observance of the five-day week and six-hour day as the best means of mastering the unemployment problem and protecting society against recurring depressions. There is only one side to this case. Every fact and factor having to do with its consideration argues for shorter hours and higher living standards as the one and only way to insure economic health."

The convention therefore strongly reaffirmed its endorsement of "the five-day week and the six-hour work day without any reduction in the hourly or weekly pay," declared that "this objective of the six-hour day, five day work week be declared the paramount objective of this convention," and instructed the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to spare no effort to insure steady and certain progress toward the attainment of this great objective and of enlisting the support of all the people in its behalf."

In addition, the convention recommended that the A. F. of L. Executive Council, "in seeking to further the more general adoption and observance of the shorter work week, through legislative enactments and otherwise exercise the utmost diligence to protect and safeguard the accomplishments of established unions by maintaining intact the rights of collective bargaining."

SIT-DOWN STRIKES.

The convention concurred with the report of the AFL Executive Council which noted the passage by the U. S. Senate of a resolution which declared that "it is the sense of the Congress that the so-called sit-down strike is illegal and contrary to public policy," and that "the so-called industrial spy system breeds fear, suspicion and animosity and tends to cause strikes and industrial warfare and is contrary to sound public policies." The resolution also declared "that it is likewise contrary to sound public policy for any employer to deny the right of collective bargaining, to foster the company union or to engage in any other unfair labor practice as defined in the National Labor Relations Act."

SMALL CLAIMS COURT.

District of Columbia.—The convention supported as "worthy legislation" the principle contained in S. 1835 to create a small claims court for the District of Columbia, and recommended "continuation of effort by the American Federation of Labor for its enactment".

The bill provides that judges of the municipal court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all cases in which the amount of the plaintiff's claim is not more than $50 exclusive of interest, attorneys fees, protest fees and costs, with provision that the court shall have authority to settle cases by the method of arbitration and conciliation, the judges acting as referees or arbitrators either alone or in conjunction with other persons. The bill also provides that the fee for commencing an action in the small claims court shall not be more than $1, and that the term "pauper" shall not be employed by the court.

SOCIAL SECURITY.

The convention approved the action of the AFL Executive Council in appointing "a special committee to study the entire subject of Social Security existing legislation and amendments which may be required, the committee being composed of members of the Executive Council."

The convention pointed out that "many questions arising at present in connection with Social Security are administrative, and require fully as much consideration as the basic legislation itself." The convention urged that "the committee be given every possible assistance to carry on its studies so that at the earliest possible moment the Executive Council will be in a position to make recommendations—Federal and State in their character."

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.

Administration.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution requesting that the American Federation of Labor give serious consideration to the problem of divided authority in the administration of the unemployment compensation provisions of the Social Security Act. The resolution pointed out that the Social Security Act gives the Federal Internal Revenue Bureau, the Social Security Board and the U. S. Department of Labor administrative authority over the State agencies in charge of administering the unemployment compensation funds, and charged that "such dual authority over the State's administration of such funds will lead to many complications, misunderstandings and unnecessary delays resulting in hardships and inconveniences to the unemployed workers subject to the benefits under the provisions of the State laws."

Coverage.—The convention recommended "that the Social Security Act be amended so as to provide coverage for agricultural workers, and that said coverage shall apply to all employes in workshops, mills, mines and factories."

Coverage—Cemetery Workers.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution favoring the amendment of the Social Security Act so as to include cemetery workers within the benefits and provisions of the Act. The resolution called attention to the fact that the Social Security Act exempts "all religious, charitable and nonprofit institutions from its provisions and that the employes of certain cemeteries coming within this exemption are deprived of the benefits of the Act. The resolution added that "all these institutions engaged in the disposal of bodies have as their dominant intent one of profit, and hence should be bound by the provisions of the Act."

Exemption of Strikers.—The convention recommended that the Social Security Act be amended so as to provide that those engaged in legitimate strikes shall be entitled to the benefits of the Act, and declared "that all who may be forced to engage in legitimate strikes should be covered by the provisions of the Social Security Act."

Exemption of Employes From Contributions to Unemployment Compensation Funds.—The convention recommended that "in the different States where employes are required through the imposition of a tax to contribute toward unemployment insurance, said tax provisions be repealed. We maintain that the entire cost for unemployment insurance should be borne by industry. Workers who are the victims of unemployment should not be required to contribute out of their net earnings into unemployment insurance funds."

In its report to the convention on this subject the AFL Executive Council said:

"Eight states require employes to make contributions to the unemployment fund—Alabama, California, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island. The American Federation of Labor believes that the requirement that employes contribute puts an undue hardship upon them, virtually making them pay twice for the same benefit—out of their scanty earnings in addition to the decline in the purchasing power of wages due to the fact that employers will pass on all increased costs in higher prices. We recommend to state federations concerned that all such provisions be eliminated from their laws."

Old Age Insurance.—The convention recommended that "within five years after taxes to be used in financing the Social Security Act are ordered paid, that old-age pensions of not less than $30 per month be paid to those who come within the scope and provisions of the Act."

Old Age Pensions.—The convention referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council two resolutions calling for amendments to the "Old Age Pension" provisions of the Social Security Act.

The first resolution declared that "the amount paid for old age pensions at the present time throughout the United States runs from $15 to $35 per month, which is not sufficient to buy the bare necessities of life," and recommended that "a uniform amount of at leats $50 per month be paid throughout the United States for old age pension, to any citizen of the United States, beginning at the age of 60 years."

The second resolution declared that "the age of 65 years to be eligible for old age pension as provided in the Social Security Act is absolutely too high," that "the average worker when he is over 50 years of age can only find work from four to five months during the year, partly due to the high insurance rate," and that "new inventions, such as mechanical labor saving devices, are still increasing, thereby bringing down the age limit at which one is able to obtain employment more and more as time goes on," and recommended that "the age to be eligible for the old age pension be reduced to 60 years."

In referring the resolutions to the AFL Executive Council the convention pointed out that the Council "has appointed a special committee to study the whole question of old age pensions and Social Security legislation."

SPINNERS INTERNATIONAL UNION.

A. F. of L. Charter.—The convention concurred with the action of the AFL Executive Council in granting the application of the representatives of the International Spinners Union for restoration of their charter of affiliation.

STATE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR.

Acting upon the report of the AFL Executive Council that four additional States—Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Indiana—have "this year set up branches of State government devoted to the protection of wage earners," the convention urged that "efforts be continued in the remaining States to set up State Labor Departments, adequately staffed, financed, and equipped with full power to administer labor laws and to make rules and regulations supplementing these laws."

STATE LABOR RELATIONS LAWS.

Model Bill.—The convention approved the action of the American Federation of Labor in having "drafted and circulated to its constituent bodies a bill to promote equality of bargaining power between employer and employe by creating State Labor Commissions, defining unfair labor practices, etc.," and urged the officers of the Federation "to continue the assistance to the state federations of labor in endeavoring to enact proper legislation in each State covering this subject."

STREET AND ELECTRIC RAILWAY EMPLOYES AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION.

Industrial Charter.—The convention referred to the AFL Executive Council a resolution introduced by the delegates of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, following instructions of the 1937 convention of the Association, requesting "the right to adopt and establish industrial organization covering the operation of street and electric railways operating in cities, and in interurban transportation," such jurisdiction to "cover all men and women engaged in the operation of cars, buses and coaches that are used in the transportation of passengers in the cities and over the highways of the country."

The convention said that under the laws of the American Federation of Labor the question of extending the jurisdiction of the Amalgamated Association must first receive the attention of the AFL Executive Council.

STRIKE BREAKERS.

Transportation.—The convention recommended that the AFL Executive Council continue its efforts during the second session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress to secure the enactment of a new bill in place of the Byrnes Act prohibiting the transportation of persons in interstate commerce for the purpose of interfering with peaceful picketing.

The new bill, which the Council said was introduced because the Byrnes Act was misunderstood, provided "that (a) it shall be unlawful to transport or cause to be transported in interstate or foreign commerce any person who is employed or is to be employed for the purpose of obstructing or interfering by force or threats with (1) peaceful picketing by employes during any labor controversy affecting wages, hours, or conditions of labor; or (2) the exercise by employes of any of the rights of self organization, collective bargaining or other concerted activities for mutual aid or protection," with a fine of not more than $5,000 or imprisonment for not more than two years, or both fine and imprisonment for parties convicted of violating the law.

The bill passed the Senate during the first session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress but failed of action in the House.

T

TEACHERS.

Academic Freedom and Tenure Laws.—The convention reaffirmed its position in favor of academic freedom and sound tenure laws for teachers and urged "all affiliated bodies to use their best efforts to prevent the unjust dismissal of teachers and to cooperate in the reinstatement of teachers who have been unjustly dismissed for exercising their rights of academic freedom."

The resolution which brought the subject of academic freedom directly before the convention said:

"During the past year the same organized interests which oppose organized workers have increasingly attacked the academic freedom and sound tenure conditions of teachers in the public schools and colleges of America.

"In California, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Montana, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, West Virginia, Illinois, Minnesota, Connecticut, and other states, grievance cases have been reported in which teachers have been dismissed for union labor sympathies and activities, or for teaching facts opposed to the interests of political bosses and captains of industry.

"Complete freedom to teach the truth fairly and impartially is absolutely essential if the history and philosophy of the American labor movement are to receive proper consideration in the curricula of the schools and colleges of America."

"The American Federation of Labor," the convention declared, "has taken an unequivocal stand in behalf of academic freedom. It believes in the freedom of the teacher to teach the truth and the freedom of the student to hear such truth. It is essential that the youth of our country and our schools and colleges know the history, philosophy and principles of the American labor movement. It is imperative that the board, the teacher and the student should be free from either pressure from without or indoctrination from within."

THEATRE SCENERY.

Tariff.—Declaring that theatre scenery produced in foreign countries "is being imported into this country for use in shows created in this country and thereby depriving American workers of the work of painting such scenery, work rightfully belonging to them," the convention condemned the importation of foreign scenery and favored amendment of the U. S. tariff laws "for the protection of our workers at scene painting in the theatrical industry."

TOWNLEY, WILLIAM R.

Fraternal Delegate From British Trades Union Congress.—The convention presented William R. Townley, fraternal delegate from the British Trade Union Congress and president of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operators, of Great Britain, with an engraved watch and chain as a token of the appreciation of the officers and delegates. The convention also presented Mrs. Townley with a wrist watch.

TRADE UNION BENEFITS.

The convention stressed the importance of trade union benefits paid by national and international unions which the AFL Executive Council in its annual report said amounted during the year 1936 to $34,113,671.78, classified as follows: Death benefits, $12,821,607.42; sick benefits, $1,272,817.60; unemployment benefits, $10,990,104.16; old age benefits, $4,784,506.27; disability benefits, $2,597,885.87; miscellaneous benefits, $1,646,750.46.

"The report covering the payment of benefits in 1936 as compared with 1935," the convention declared, "shows a very substantial increase, which is convincing evidence of increasing dues-paying membership.

"The benefits might properly be termed secondary benefits of trade union membership. Primarily, our movement is concerned with the benefits derived from increased earning power and fewer hours of labor as a result of union membership.

"The activities and interests of organized labor cover a wide field. The payment of more than thirty-four million dollars in one year represents the efforts of international unions to aid their members in need of direct and individual assistance.

"To this figure must be added many more millions paid by local unions under provisions of local by-laws and not included in this report."

The convention commended all national, international and local unions for their efforts in the field of trade union benefits, adding:

"It is a concrete demonstration of our desire to help, aid and assist all members who are in distress because of circumstances beyond their own control."

U

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Retraining the Jobless.—On the question of retraining jobless workers as a remedy for unemployment the convention declared:

"We cannot subscribe to the theory that a retraining program will contribute in any substantial way to the solution of the unemployment problem. Such an idea presupposes that employment possibilities exist in trades and industries other than the ones from which the unemployed workers were dismissed. There is no factual information to support such a theory. In all trades and callings there exists a surplus number of workers. The difference between them is only one of degree. To train additional workers for non-existing jobs is a travesty upon their already existing misfortune."

Shorter Work Week and Work Day.—Pointing out that "increased production resulting from new and intensified production processes, the introduction of chemistry and the fabrication of materials augment the ranks of the unemployed," and that "we can look forward to a large and permanent part of our population being constantly unemployed unless hours are reduced and purchasing power increased in keeping with our constantly increasing productivity," the convention declared that "the most effective remedy for unemployment is that advanced by the American Federation of Labor in its advocacy of a shorter work week and work day, and increased purchasing power in conformity with increasing productivity. In this way only can a flexible and balanced national economy, necessary to meet constantly changing conditions, be maintained.

UNEMPLOYMENT CENSUS.

Taking an unemployment census at least every ten years was endorsed with the recommendation "that a study be made as to the practicability of securing reasonably accurate data through the medium of information filed with the Social Security Board." The convention emphasized the point that "to be useful it is necessary that current information be made available at specified periods in order to meet the growing problems arising out of unemployment." Moreover, the convention added, "great care is necessary to insure the securing of authentic information concerning unemployment."

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

Uniform System.—A resolution calling for a uniform system of unemployment compensation was referred by the convention to the AFL Executive Council with the request that they make a thorough study of the subject and report their findings to the next A. F. of L. convention.

The resolution charged that "State boundaries no longer confine the workers of our nation in the quest for employment," that "the consequence of unemployment cannot be confined within the borders of a single State," that "unemployment compensation is today based upon the outworn theory that each State is sovereign over the economic conditions within its boundaries," and that many trade union members "jeopardize their rights to obtain employment compensation whenever they accept employment outside of their own State."

UNION LABEL TRADES DEPARTMENT.

Achievements.—The Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor was strongly endorsed by the convention for its many activities in promoting the demand for union-made articles and union services, with especial emphasis on the department's publicity and advertising policy, which included use of the radio for coast-to-coast broadcasts and local broadcasts, news releases and cartoons and the organization of union label leagues asd the promotion of union label weeks.

In addition, the department organized an international auxiliary to coordinate the women's auxiliaries of various unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and also the women's auxiliaries of the standard railway unions. The name of the affiliated women's group is the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor, which started with a membership of 2,000,000.

The increasing scope of union-made goods and services was indicated by the fact that four new union labels were added to the directory of the Union Label Trades Department during the past year.

Pointing out that "organized labor in the several divisions embraces nearly ten millions of workers," representing "an approximate aggregate of fifty millions of wage earners and their dependents," the convention stressed the importance of this rich and far-flung field for union label exploitation.

The convention declared that the educational service in connection with the union label performed by the Union Label Trades Department "is exemplifying an expansive and healthy growth," adding:

"Discouraging indifference is yielding to deepening interest. Slogans which once seemed to have a commonplace twang are beginning to sparkle with a new vitality. The one time lonely voices crying in the wilderness, and hearing no response but their own dismal echo are now finding the woods vibrant with a resounding chorus of inquiry. Summarized in a sentence—the Union Label, window card and button are coming into their own."

The convention paid a tribute to I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, for his work in promoting the wider patronage of union label articles and services. "He is peculiarly adapted to needs of his task," the convention said. "Out of an abounding zeal he is gifted with the faculty of generating enthusiasm in others. Under his leadership the days of anxious experimentation have passed away. The present is rich in opportunity. Into the future he will lead his forces unfalteringly, and unafraid."

Authority to Review Application for Approval of Union Labels, Shop Cards and Buttons.—The convention adopted a resolution declaring that "no design for a union label, shop card or button shall be authorized or approved by the Executive Council before the design has been submitted to the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor for review and recommendation."

In approving the resolution the convention said "it must be understood that the label of the affiliated national and international unions are their exclusive property and the purpose of the approval by the American Federation of Labor is to avoid conflict in design as well as conflict in jurisdiction of affiliated organizations."

UNION LABELS.

The extensive field covered by products made and services rendered by members of trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor was revealed to the convention by the report on union labels made by Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L.

According to the report, there are 46 labels and 10 cards issued and used by affiliated organizations which have been endorsed by the American Federation of Labor.

The following organizations use labels: American Federation Labor; Bakers and Confectioners; Bill Posters and Billers; Boilermakers; Blacksmiths; *Bookbinedrs; Boot and Shoe Workers; Brewery Workmen; Brick and Clay Workers; Broommakers; Carpenters and Joiners Brotherhood; Carvers, Wood; Cigarmakers; Coopers; Draftmen's Unions.

Electrical Workers; Garment Workers, United; Glass Bottle Blowers; Glove Workers; Hatters and Millinery Workers; Horseshoers; Jewelry Workers; Lathers; Laundry Workers; Leather Workers; Machinists; Marble Workers; Metal Polishers; Metal Workers, Sheet; Metal Engravers; Molders.

Painters; Papermakers; *Photo-Engravers; Plate Printers; Potters; Powder Workers; *Pressmen, Printing; Sheep Shearers; *Stereotypers and Electrotypers; Stove Mounters; Teamsters; Tobacco Workers; *Typographical; Upholsters; United Wall Paper Crafts; Weavers.

The five unions indicated by an asterisk (*) own and control jointly what is known as the Allied Printing Trades Label.

The following organizations use cards, buttons and emblems: Actors; Barbers; Clerks, Retail; Engineers, Operating; Firemen, Stationary; Hotel and Restaurant Employees; Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen; Musicians; Stage Employees, Theatrical; Teamsters.

The following crafts and callings are using the American Federation of Labor labels: Athletic Goods Workers; Brushmakers; Coffee, Spice and Baking Powder Workers; Flour Mill Workers; Horse Nail Workers; Novelty Workers; Suspender Makers.

Durable Material.—Pointing out that many union labels used by national and international unions are made of paper and attached by pasting to manufactured articles, and that "in the transportation of the labeled article these pasted or loosely attached labels are many times lost, thus causing inconvenience and embarrassment to the union people who sell, purchase, or display these articles," the convention requested the Union Labor Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor "to contact all affiliated unions to request them to use labels which when attached will be permanent."

Uniform Label.—The convention referred to the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor a resolution instructing the AFL Executive Council to adopt a standard design for labels, shop cards and buttons for the use of all affiliated organizations which shall "incorporate the insignia of the American Federation of Labor with space therein for the individual insignia chosen by the national or international unions designating their particular craft . . . this design to be copyrighted and protected and that permission be granted national and international affiliated organizations prescribing to the regulations, to use this standard design at such time as their organization can arrange to adopt it."

The resolution pointed out that "many national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor use, as labels, shop cards and buttons, a heterogeneous assortment of designs and patterns," which "make recognition of individual union insignia difficult to even affiliated craft officials and impossible to lay members," and that "this confusion of many designs and patterns permits a practice of counterfeiting and imitating."

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

The convention endorsed the proposition that the United States Civil Service Commission "continue to be the agency charged with the administration of the laws and regulations affecting civilian personnel within the classified civil service of the United States," that the Commission "continue to be a bypartisan commission," that one member of the Commission "shall be selected with particular reference to his active interest in organized labor," and that "the tenure of office of commissioners be for a period of fifteen years, with restrictions governing removals similar to those applying to the position of comptroller general of the United States, provided that initial terms under such tenure act be stated at five, ten and fifteen years."

UNITED STATES EMPLOYES COMPENSATION COMMISSION.

Independent Administration.—The convention reaffirmed the declarations of previous conventions in favor of maintaining the present independent administrative status of the United States Employes Compensation Commission, which "is of significance now because of the pending program of reorganization and consolidation of government departments."

Pointing out that the U. S. Compensation Commission "was originally established largely at the urging of the American Federation of Labor to administer the Workmen's Compensation Law covering government employes" and that since then it has been charged "with the duty of administering Federal workmen's compensation laws applicable to longshoremen and other harbor workers in private industry, workmen in private employment in the District of Columbia, and the large body of workmen employed on Federal emergency projects," the convention declared that the commission "since its establishment has consistently performed its important functions in a humane and sympathetic manner that reflects credit on the system of administration of workmen's compensation legislation by an independent bi-partisan commission," and that "the increase in the number of employes now within the scope of federal workmen's compensation laws and the possible extension of such laws to other employments within federal jurisdiction makes the administration of these laws a matter of great interest to the American Federation of Labor."

V

VACATIONS WITH PAY.

Vacations with pay were endorsed by the convention as a practical contribution toward securing fewer hours of employment. The annual report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council pointed out that a response to a questionnaire sent to national and international unions showed that 746,893 union members already have vacations with pay (in 1937), and that of these 383,000 are employed by federal or state governments and 363,900 are in private industry. Moreover, the Council said there is a move on foot to extend the vacation privilege to workers in foreign countries, and that the British Trades Union Congress is endeavoring to secure paid vacations by act of Parliament.

In its complete approval of paid vacations the convention declared:

"The fifty-two weeks work year has become as outmoded as the 60-hour work week. Under our present surplus economy there is no justification for denying vacations with pay to all workers.

"The extension of this principle will tend to avoid the vacations without pay known as unemployment."

In addition the convention recommended that "the publicity department of the A. F. of L. and all affiliated unions promote an extensive educational campaign in the interest of establishing vacations with pay as an accepted principle of employment in industry."

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

Administration.—The convention commended the President of the United States for his militant criticism of the inclusion of an amendment in the Appropriation Bill for the Department of the Interior adding ten million dollars to the four and a half millions recommended for vocational education and his determination to refrain from approving any unsound vocational education expansion.

The President pointed out in his statement that he had appointed "an advisory committee to study the experience under the existing program of Federal aid for vocational education, the relation of such training to other forms of education, and to prevailing economic and social conditions, and the extent of the need for an expanded program." The President added that later he requested the committee "to give a more extended consideration to the whole subject of Federal relationship to State and local conduct of education," and that "the enlarged assignment of the committee will be completed in time for consideration early next Winter."

In addition, the President said that "a considerable number of educators interested in general education, many representatives of organized labor, and a large group of employers are profoundly dissatisfied with the results of vocational education under the existing set-up, and have repeatedly urged that there be no further expansion of vocational education pending the report of the committee on the whole Federal program of participation in education."

Moreover, the President pointed out that "the Advisory Committee on Education reports that it is unanimous on the recommendation that financial support by the Federal Government for the types of vocational education now receiving support should be continued without curtailment during the coming fiscal year. It is not in favor of the enlargement of Federal support of vocational education until consideration has been given to the whole subject of Federal relations to State and local conduct of education of all types."

District of Columbia.—The convention concurred with a resolution criticizing the attitude of the Superintendent of Schools in the District of Columbia, "approved by the Board of Education," toward vocational education, expressed the fear "that unless the Congress of the United States specifically determines the course of action on vocational education the Board will abide by the recommendation of the Superintendent and completely ignore the interests of labor," and declared that "the whole of vocational education in the entire United States is of great moment to labor," and that "the work in the Nation's Capital may serve as an example."

To meet this condition the convention requested the American Federation of Labor to "take full cognizance of the vast social implications of the program in vocational education, call upon the special committee recently appointed to make a survey of education in Washington to expose all facts and data which would reveal to the public the anti-social policy of the school officers in relation to vocational education," and "seek the necessary congressional action to effect the desired changes."

Federal Board for Vocational Education.—Acting on information that although the American Federation of Labor is directly represented on the Federal Board for Vocational Education there has not been the degree of cooperation and coordination necessary to get the kind of administration desired by the American Federation of Labor, the convention recommended that "the officers of the American Federation of Labor bring to the attention of labor's representative on the Federal Board any complaints," and expressed the belief that in this way "much progress can be made in improving the administration of this necessary service."

The convention reiterated its belief that a more satisfactory administration of vocational education could be obtained by a Federal Board on vocation education "that would be free to give its entire time to this work," and recommended that the President of the American Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Labor Committee on Education investigate "this entire question and take such action as will remove cause for complaint."

Finally, the convention expressed "the conviction that until such time as the administration of vocational education in this country can give clearer evidence of its concern for the general welfare, that the American Federation of Labor will withhold its full and hearty support."

Labor Committees.—The convention reiterated its support of the recommendations made in previous years by the A. F. of L. Executive Council and the A. F. of L. Committee on Education, with regard to representatives of organized labor serving on boards administering vocational education. On this point, the convention said:

"For years the Executive Council and your Committee on Education has urged that a standing Committee on Education be established in each State and Central Body and that this activity be coordinated between the two bodies, especially in its insistence on adequate labor representation on State Advisory Committees on Vocational Education, on State and Local Boards of Education, other Educational Commissions and all Boards of Public Libraries. Until this is done the standing Committee on Education of the American Federation of Labor will be most seriously handicapped in all of its educational activities in bringing about legitimate and essential educational progress."

In emphasizing the importance of the proposed labor committees on education the convention strongly urged the "real necessity of all affiliates of the Federation, and especially State Federations and Central Bodies becoming more actively interested and insistent on the rights of Labor and of the public at large not only on the subject matter of Vocational Education but on all educational activities."

W

WAGES AND HOURS.

The convention adopted the A. F. of L. Executive Council's report on wages and hours as exemplifying "the influence of organization in establishing better conditions of employment with respect to wages and hours," adding:

"Since 1929 the workers have gained 8½ hours of leisure each week by reducing the weekly hours of labor from an average of 49 in 1929 to an average of 40½ in 1937. This is definite advancement toward the objectives of the American Federation of Labor.

"In the matter of earnings the gain has not been so pronounced when contrasted with increasing production and living costs. Records of wages in the first half of 1937, however, clearly indicate that with growing organization there comes substantial increases in earnings.

"The gains over a period of six months in 1937 were twice as great as were gained in the two preceding years when labor was not as well organized.

"A succinct statement of the matter would say that workers are enjoying a 4 per cent better standard of living in 1937 than was enjoyed in 1929 and they are working 8½ hours less each week to secure it.

"This statement confirms the contention of organized labor that the standard of living for the worker advances as hours of labor are reduced."

WAGE COLLECTIONS.

State Departments of Labor.—Acting on the report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council that "the collection of unpaid valid wage claims is a primary service which every Labor Department should be equipped to render every worker in the State who needs it," that "thousands of such claims are presented every year to State Labor Commissioners," and that "yet in only a few States are these officials granted really adequate power to deal with the recalcitrant or irresponsible defaulting employer," the convention urged all state federations of labor "to vigorously press for adequate legislation covering this subject."

WAR DEBTS DUE THE UNITED STATES.

Collection.—The convention referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council, "with authority to take such action as may develop from time to time, and may seem appropriate to bring early consummation of the purpose of the resolution," a resolution authorizing "the President and the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to demand of the Federal Government, both the Executive and Legislative Branches, that immediate efforts be taken to collect the said debt owing by the several nations to the United States of America."

The convention declared that while it was "in complete sympathy with the purpose of the resolution, which is to have the United States Government repaid for the loans it made to foreign nations during the World War and immediately following" it was not prepared to make definite recommendations as to the steps to be taken to collect these debts."

WAR LEGISLATION.

Sheppard-Hill Bill and Ludlow War Referendum Bill.—The convention referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council, "with instruction to cooperate in every practical measure which may be advanced, which in their opinion will limit the power of national authorities to force their peoples into war," a resolution calling on the American Federation of Labor to officially disapprove of the Sheppard-Hill Bill, "providing for the arbitrary executive powers through its industrial mobilization plan," and also calling for approval of the Ludlow War Referendum Bill, "to the end that the interests of labor in general, and organized labor in particular, will be protected in the event of war."

The convention adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee, which said:

"This Resolution presents a subject which has received much consideration by other conventions and which is now receiving world wide attention. It has become increasingly evident that due to the loss of democratic and parliamentary governments, dictators have acquired the power to plunge their nations into warfare with others without those who must do the fighting, bear the burdens and endure the suffering, having a voice in the determination. Surely some way must be found through which the people of such nations can throw off the power now invested in a few to plunge them into fratricidal conflict with the men of other countries with whom they have no quarrel. It is a definite evidence of advancing civilization and of higher, more humane influences when we find not only the people of our country but of other democratic countries united for the purpose of finding ways and means by which no rulers will be permitted to plunge their countries into warfare.

"With this purpose your Committee is in full accord and recommends that the American Federation of Labor unite with other groups similarly minded in an effort to establish the methods of peace instead of the methods of war in adjusting international questions, and in endeavoring to impress aggressor countries that their aggression, in the end will be made to react against them.

"The Resolve in the resolution calls for the disapproval of the Sheppard-Hill bill and the approval of the Ludlow War Referendum proposal.

"Your Committee cannot bring itself to recommend either action proposed. There are situations affecting the vitality of a nation and the security of its borders which are beyond the invasion of their national borders and yet which are practically equivalent in their effect."

WAR MATERIALS.

Limitation on Manufacture.—The convention nonconcurred with a resolution requesting the American Federation of Labor "to do all in its power to prevent the manufacturing of any and all kinds of war materials, except those to be used by the United States Government for defense."

In nonconcurring with the resolution the convention called "attention to the fact that 'all kinds of war materials' include many which are essential parts to normal peacetime production," adding:

"Pig iron and steel are war materials. Cotton enters extensively into the manufacture of explosives. The same chemicals produced by the chemical industry for peacetime purposes are readily converted into explosives. The manufac-

(Continued on Page 8)

American Federation of Labor Convention Proceedings Summarized

(Continued from Page 7)

ture of surgical instruments, of optical instruments, in fact, every article of life enters into what can be properly classified as war materials against which conflicting nations issue their embargoes."

WAR PROFITEERING.

The A. F. of L. Executive Council reported to the convention that "labor has always taken the stand that profiteering during time of war can only be prevented through taxation," and that conscripting labor in industry will not prevent this evil. The Council added that the Hill Bill introduced as an anti-war profiteering measure in the first session of the Seventy-fifth Congress originally included an industrial conscription provision which was eliminated on the recommendation of the Council. A similar bill introduced by Senator Sheppard in the Senate contained the objectionable conscription feature, with the words "emergencies due to the imminence of war" omitted. The Council expressed the belief that if the Sheppard-Hill Bills become law, "it will repeal the Walsh-Healey Act, the National Labor Relations Act and other important labor legislation."

"Every year that this legislation has been introduced," the Executive Council said, "representatives of the American Federation of Labor have appeared at all hearings and protested against conscripting labor in industry. Up to date it has been successful in preventing this legislation."

In acting on the Executive Council's report, the convention declared "that no statement need be made as to the dangers not only to working standards of labor but the very structure of our liberties which would result from conscription of labor during war," and condemned the Sheppard-Hill Bills and the entire principle of conscription of labor." In addition the convention recommended "that the Executive Council scrutinize with the greatest care any legislation on this subject for weasel words which may be artfully introduced in legislation having to do with the mobilization of our national resources for war." The convention added that it took this stand "while pointing to the proud record of organized labor during past international conflicts and all national emergencies."

WILSON, JAMES.

Counselor of International Labor Organization.—The convention commended James Wilson, former officer of the American Federation of Labor and now Counselor of the International Labor Organization, 'for the splendid service he has and is rendering to American organized labor and the International Labor Office and the effective way in which he has interpreted the work of this outstanding agency of international cooperation in the ranks of organized labor in America."

WOMEN COUNCILS

Charters.—The convention declined to approve a resolution petitioning "the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to charter organizations of women loyal to the American Federation of Labor similar to that of a central body, with full recognition by central bodies and State federations of labor."

The convention made the following declaration in regard to women's organizations, expressing the belief "that the present policy of the American Federation of Labor is broader in scope than the provisions of the resolution":

"The affiliated National and International Unions have, for years, undertaken to organize women auxiliaries of their respective trade organizations and callings. More recently, under the auspices of the Union Label Trades Department, these National and International women auxiliaries are being coordinated into an American Federation of Ladies Auxiliaries, and every effort is being made to promote women organizations among all of the American trade unions. In addition, women label leagues have been organized throughout the country and the appeal by the American Federation of Labor has been made to all forms and characters of women organizations to give support to supplementing the work of these organizations of women in the organizing of the consuming power of the great public."

WOOD PRESERVING WORKERS.

International Charter.—The convention referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council a resolution calling for the chartering of an International Union of Wood Preserving Employes. The resolution said there are 187 wood preservation plants throughout the United States of America providing employment for approximately 25,000 to 35,000 workers, and that the rate of pay and working conditions are most unfavorable in the majority of the plants, which are not organized.

WORKERS EDUCATION BUREAU.

Director Miller's Address Before the A. F. of L. Convention.—The convention congratulated Spencer Miller, Jr., director of the Workers Education Bureau on his address before the A. F. of L. convention, which consisted of a "comprehensive and illuminating review of the work and activities of the Bureau and the great service rendered to the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated bodies," which, the convention added, "is worthy of the serious study of the officers and delegates to this convention."

The convention asserted that because of the known competency of the Director, his report "on existing conditions in Europe and the ever drifting race to re-arm and to war, and especially the deep concern and disillusionment of the Youth of Europe as to their future and the future of humanity itself, is of utmost significance and a matter of deep and grave concern not only to this Federation and its membership but to the entire American people."

Because of its great importance the convention ordered that Mr. Miller's address be published in pamphlet form and "distributed to affiliated bodies and made available to those concerned and in sympathy with the ideals and philosophy of the American Federation of Labor."

Federal Grants-In-Aid.—The Workers Education Bureau was commended by the convention for initiating a series of conferences designed to secure some form of grants-in-aid for workers education, the information to be incorporated in a bill which Congress will be requested to enact.

Financial Support.—Pointing out that "it is now more than thirteen years ago that the last convention over which the late Samuel Gompers presided, provided for a per capita support of the Workers Education Bureau on a voluntary basis," that "since that time some national and international unions have undertaken to provide a basis of support for the Bureau in accordance with the provisions as laid down and in subsequent conventions," and that "more recently the American Federation of Labor in recognition of the useful service performed by the Bureau recommended an annual grant of $5,000," the convention emphasized that "as the American Federation of Labor embarks on a new and more vigorous campaign of public education and organization, the resources and techniques of the Bureau will have to be more widely utilized," and authorized the A. F. of L. Executive Council "to increase the financial support to the Bureau so as to provide a more adequate sum for the conduct of its greatly increased opportunities for service."

In addition, the convention requested the President of the American Federation of Labor "to address a special communication to all affiliated unions, state and central bodies, pointing out the important work of the Workers Education Bureau, and urging them to affiliate and to cooperate and support the Bureau in order that the membership of the American Federation of Labor as a whole may receive its benefits and advantages."

Institutes for Organizers.—The Director of the Workers Education Bureau, as well as the Bureau itself, was commended by the convention for their initiative in outlining plans for training labor organizers by a series of regional labor institutes set up for this purpose.

"Four institutes of training for organizers," the convention said, "have been held—one in Detroit, one in Boston, one in Cincinnati and the fourth in Atlanta. Each of these institutes has brought together responsible leaders of the Federation and has afforded to them the opportunity of a critical and intelligent consideration of their problems. Under the joint leadership of the Bureau and the Division on Organization of the Federation, these training institutes have provided a most useful and effective form of in-training service. The value of these training conferences has been widely recognized by all who have taken part and are now regarded as an important part of the regular organizational activity of the Federation."

Labor Institutes and Organized Labor Programs.—Reviewing the ten years' experience of Labor Institutes on various economic and industrial topics of interest to working men and women, sponsored by the Workers Education Bureau, the convention said that "these institutes which have been set up in cooperation with the labor organizations on one side and some of the institutions of higher learning on the other have proved to be very effective and useful mediums for the dissemination of information."

In addition to commending the "Ohio Plan" of labor institutes developed in cooperation with the Workers Education Bureau and the Ohio State Federation of Labor, the convention also endorsed similar institutes sponsored by the State Federations of Labor in Wisconsin, California and New Jersey.

Leave of Absence of the Director.—The convention approved the action taken by the Executive Committee of the Workers Education Bureau in granting a leave of absence for three months to Spencer Miller, Jr., director of the Bureau, to enable him to make a study of the trends of technical education in England, France and Germany. "This investigation undertaken for the American Youth Commission has already disclosed interesting points for the development of the program in this country," the convention declared.

Radio Program.—The convention commended the Workers Education Bureau and Station WCFL in Chicago, for the successful radio educational program carried on for the past seven years, and recommended that similar programs be carried forward at periodical intervals over either local stations or nation-wide networks. The convention declared that the Workers Education Bureau had maintained its instruction by radio "at a high level of excellence and has reached a large number in the population." The convention said that "the recent experiment of utilizing the educational facilities of Station WCFL for a dramatic presentation of the Social Security skits has been a striking example of the resourcefulness of the Bureau."

Research Division.—The convention commended the Workers Education Bureau for establishing its research division and in preparing material of recognized value to the trade union movement. Realizing the lack of information among the workers regarding the functioning and the underlying principles of the Social Security Act, the convention was informed that during the year the Bureau had supplied trade unions with a series of skits on this law and also with material on Workmen's Compensation, Occupational Diseases, Building Effective Union Organization, the Union Label, and acts Useful for Negotiating an Agreement.

Works Progress Administration Workers Education Program.—The cooperation of the Workers Education Bureau with the Works Progress Administration Workers Education Program now in its fourth year, was commended by the convention, which emphasized "the Bureau's insistence that its cooperation depend upon a nonpartisan approach to all educational activities."

In this connection the convention said that while in general WPA workers classes "have functioned as nonpartisian educational activities," it was reported "that there have been some regrettable instances where they have functioned on a partisan basis." The convention pointed out that "it is a matter of great concern that governmental funds in educational projects are used on a partisan basis," and directed "the Executive Council and the President of the American Federation of Labor to closely observe this activity of the WPA and to register a vigorous protest against any continuation of this partisan policy."

The convention was informed by the A. F. of L. Executive Council that around 60,000 students have been enrolled in the WPA classes.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Exclusive State Funds.—The convention reaffirmed its former declarations in favor of exclusive State funds for the operation of workmen's compensation laws and declared that such laws should include occupational diseases.

Occupational Diseases.—The convention approved "the principle of blanket coverage of occupational diseases under workmen's compensation."

Silicosis.—The convention recommended that "in all States in which workmen's compensation is provided for silicosis, State Federations of Labor should insist that if physical examination of employes are to take place to demonstrate the incidence and reveal the prevalence of silicosis in certain industries or occupations, that such examinations shall be made by either the State Department of Health or the body administering the workmen's compensation law, and that such examinations shall not reveal the personality of the employes so examined."

WORLD PEACE.

The convention made a strong declaration with regard to the warlike conditions which prevail in the field of international relations and view with alarm the use of violence to overthrow democratic institutions and the failure of ordinary neutrality procedure to protect the masses against barbaric attacks such as Japan has inflicted upon Chinese civilians. To meet this international condition the convention declared that "concerted action between free people to protect the world's right to peace is our only guarantee of peace."

Following is the text of the convention's declaration on world peace:

"The American Federation of Labor is gravely concerned and shocked that the Chinese nation and civilizations are threatened by ruthless warfare that attacks civilian population as well as armed forces. We are disturbed by the increasing lawlessness in the International field as evidenced by treaty violations. Democratic institutions in many countries have been replaced by the rule of force and the subordination of individual well being to state regimentation. With armed conflict already in progress in Europe and the Far East, the menace of another world war overshadows the civilized world.

Moral Issues Are Involved

"Labor abhors war and knows only too well that war does not solve our problems. American Labor does not wish to be involved in European or Asiatic wars. We, as a nation, early established the policy of avoiding entangling alliances which would involve us in the toils of foreign diplomacy. We have written in the law of the land neutrality procedure to prevent our becoming involved through trade in munitions. But as to the great moral issues that developed out of violation of the integrity of a Nation, barbaric attacks upon defenseless citizens, disregard of the rights of others—upon these things no free people with a sense of moral obligation to those unable to protect themselves can be neutral. But we want peace—not war. This desire lays upon us the obligation to seek peace.

Justice Is Basis of Peace

"Labor believes that peace is essential to the best interests of peoples of all lands and that we have a responsibility for helping to maintain peace between nations. We realize that this cannot be done by mere words or wishes but that enduring peace can result only from a positive effort toward a world order assuring justice for all, economic progress for all with special privileges for none, and cooperative action guided by the understanding that the rights of the group are the obligations of another.

"Such a world order would make possible in every land peace and freedom for individual self-development and collective well-being. Economic and social security cannot safely be separated from those moral standards and forces that lie at the heart of human fellowship. Without morality there can be neither cooperation nor sanctity of agreements. Without these our civilization breaks down.

Concerted Action Between Free People

"Concerted action between free people to protect the world's right to peace is our only guarantee of peace. That action must be cooperation to assure justice and opportunity for national progress for all. Poverty and business depression in any one country endanger prosperity of the others trading in the world market. Force is not our remedy but rather intelligent development of a world order in which friendliness and cooperation advance the interests of all nations with special privilege to none. Between nations as between individuals the important and enduring things in life are kindness, fellowship and cooperation.

"We urge this course upon our own Government and appeal to the free labor movements of all other countries to use their influence to the same ends."

LADIES HANDBAG, POCKETBOOK AND NOVELTY WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION.

Progress—The remarkable progress made by the Ladies Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union since it was granted a charter by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor last March was recounted to the convention in an address by Delegate Isidor Laderman, president of that organization, expressing the appreciation of the 10,000 members of the union for the A. F. of L. charter.

"Since March 5, which is only about seven months now," Mr. Laderman said, "we have organized approximately 6,000 workers on ladies' handbags, on men's pocketbooks, luggage, trunks and suitcases, belts, and all kinds of novelties.

"We have succeeded in increasing our local unions. We have improved the conditions not only of the newly organized workers, but also of those who had been members of our union before. We have reduced the hours of work generally to 40 hours and in some instances to 37½ hours. We have established minimum scales for unskilled workers. We have done all this because of the help we received from the American Federation of Labor and its constituent bodies, and I want to take this opportunity, President Green, to express our appreciation to those of the American Federation of Labor and its central bodies and state federations of labor who have given us splendid help in our work."

LABOR PRESS.

The importance of whole supported support of the Labor Press by the organized labor movement and avoidance of the "kept press" was emphasized to the convention in an address by Thomas R. Downie, editor of the Galesburg (Ill.) Labor News and a delegate from the Galesburg Central Labor Union, who spoke as the representative of the Labor Press Conference.

"The Labor Press," Mr. Downie said, "is unlike the general or privately-owned press, because its appeal is for the general welfare and the promotion of human progress throughout the land; therefore it requires men and women of vision, humanitarian character and training. Labor editors, in the main, spring from the ranks of labor unions and their understanding of human problems is gained, not in a school of journalism, but in the school of experience. The foregoing statement is made to try usually called the school of hard knocks, to bring to the attention of this convention the background of the labor press and to show the value of a labor press to the masses, as compared with that school of journalism which promotes in the main the interests of those who believe in the theory that capital interests are the foundation of our society and therefore should be the mouthpiece of the nation."

LABOR'S INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRY.

The right of working men and women to a more equitable share of our national wealth was emphasized in an address to the convention by Father J. W. Maguire, head of Saint Viator's College, Kankakee, Illinois, who held that the investment of the workers was of equal importance with the investment of those who invest money. Specifically discussing "people concerned in industry," Father Maguire said:

"On the one side is the owner, on the other is labor. Hitherto we have gone along on a basis that those people who invest money in industry are the only ones who have anything to say about industry. They have overlooked the fact that there is another and more sacred investment in industry, namely, labor, and labor is at least as important to industry as money, or the machine, or capital.

"And therefore labor is just as much an investment as money is. The worker invests the force of his arm, the thought of his mind and very often his life. Therefore, labor ought to have something to say regarding wages, hours and working conditions. For that reason the process of collective bargaining is a reasonable process. It seems to me the people who are doing everything they can in a blind, blundering way to hasten the day when perhaps Fascism or Communism may come to the United States are these employers who resist the organization of labor and oppose it.

"It seems to me, therefore, the organized labor movement is making the greatest contribution towards saving what is worth saving in the present economic system, and there is much that is worth saving in it."

UNION LABEL MADE MANDATORY ON MICHIGAN STATE PRINTING

New Law Provides That Firms Not Authorized to Use Union Label Shall Pay the Prevailing Wage Rate, Which Is Defined as the Union Scale; Chiselers Curbed.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The ability of low-wage and long-hour non-union printing concerns to land contracts for State printing in Michigan because their substandard labor conditions enable them to underbid other printing establishments has been effectively curbed by the union label law enacted by the recent session of the Michigan Legislature and signed by Governor Frank Murphy.

Starting out with the declaration that all State printing, with a few exceptions, must carry the label of the branch of the allied printing trades council in the locality in which it is printed, the law specifies that firms not authorized to use the label and desiring to qualify as responsible bidders must pay the prevailing wage rate in their locality, with the stipulation that wage rates included in collective bargaining agreements in those localities shall be the prevailing wage rates.

The Michigan Federation of Typographical Unions performed effective work in lining up candidates for the Legislature for the bill during last Fall's election campaign. The result was that the bill received the practically unanimous support of both houses.

Text of Union Label Law

The text of the Michigan union label law follows:

An act relative to printing for the state of Michigan; to establish the requirements of responsible bidders; to prescribe penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act; and to repeal all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

Section 1. All printing for which the state of Michigan is chargeable, or which is paid for with funds appropriated wholly or in part by the state, excepting that which is printed for primary school districts, counties, townships, cities, villages and/or legal publications ordered for or by elective state officers, must be printed within the state of Michigan, and shall bear the label of the branch of the allied printing trades council of the locality in which they are printed, except under the following conditions:

"Responsible Bidder" Defined

1. Printing firms not having the use of the allied printing trades council union label and who are desirous of presenting bids for printing as enumerated above shall be required to establish consideration as a responsible bidder as follows:

(a) As a condition to consideration as a responsible bidder printing concerns must file with the secretary of state a sworn statement to the effect that employees in the employ of the concern which is to produce such printing are receiving the prevailing wage rate and are working under conditions prevalent in the locality in which the work is produced.

Collective Agreements Recognized

(b) Whenever a collective bargaining agreement is in effect between an employer and employees who are represented by a responsible organization which is in no way influenced or controlled by the management, such agreement and its provisions shall be considered as conditions prevalent in said locality and shall be the minimum requirements for being adjudged a responsible bidder under this act.

(c) Printing firms having the use of the allied printing trades council union label shall be deemed as having complied with the provisions of this act, but nothing in these provisions shall be construed as exempting such bidders from any provision of the act, and such bidders shall also be required to conform with all of its provisions.

Exempted Institutions.

2. State-owned printing establishments in Jackson prison and the boys' industrial school at Lansing shall be exempt from the above provisions: Provided, however, that these institutions shall not perform printing other than the needs and requirements of these institutions.

Section 2. Any officer or employee of the state who shall accept any printed matter, or is found to have had printed matter produced under conditions other than set forth in this act, and which is paid for with funds appropriated wholly or in part by the state, shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars for each and every offense.

Section 3. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

ILLINOIS COMPANY GIVES EACH EMPLOYE $15 BONUS

Decatur, Ill. (AFLNS).—Another instance of "keeping sweet" industrial workers with "gifts" of bonus, instead of paying the equivalent in standard wages, was noted here recently when the Mueller Company, large plumbing fixture firm, passed out about $70,000 to 111 employes of its local plant. Only the Decatur plant was affected. Workers received from $15, with some older employes getting up to three weeks' pay in addition.

At the same time the firm's president announced that business had been so good during the first half of the year as to make the bonus possible. Then he gave notice that the plant would go on a four-day week basis, with corresponding reduction in earnings of workers.

Speed Is Blamed For Transportation Accidents; 37,000 Killed Last Year

Frank McManamy, Interstate Commerce Commission Member, Finds New Hazards in Hand-Controlled Motor Vehicles Competing With Mechanically-Controlled Railroad Trains; Grade Separation Urged to Minimize Crossing Accidents.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The speed mania which actuates both railroad executives and motor vehicle owners and operators is the main and growing cause of the increasing toll of human life taken by accidents in the field of transportation, according to a recent statement by Frank McManamy, long-time member of the Interstate Commerce Commission and formerly a railroad fireman, who discussed the transportation accident problem in instructive detail.

He also placed responsibility for a large number of grade crossing accidents on the competitive race between the railroads and automotive equipment manufacturers to produce the greatest capacity for speed. While emphasizing the fact that during 1935 not a single railroad passenger was killed in a collision or derailment, he cautioned against assuming that "the question of safety on railroads has been solved for all time."

Pointing out that legislation for safety in railroad transportation had been largely achieved by organized labor in railroad industry and kindred organizations, he said that due to "the splendid spirit of co-operation between the government, the railways, and the railway employes which has been developed in the administration of safety laws and rules, problems affecting safety have been met as they have arisen and the record is one of which all may be proud, but the question is still here and demands the best thought of all of us."

Speed Craze Is Public Menace

Turning to the specific question of speed in transportation and the dangers accompanying it, Mr. McManamy continued:

"Established means of transportation are passing through a period of evolution, if in fact it is not one of revolution, and new means of transportation are being established, some of which are admittedly far more hazardous and present problems that are far more difficult than any we have had to contend with in the past.

"The principal hazards in all forms of transportation which must be controlled if reasonable safety is to be provided, are due to the public desire or craze, if I may so characterize it, for speed for which adequate safety provisions have not been made.

"To meet this desire highway transportation on the open road crowded with vehicles operated by whosoever happens to own them, and controlled by hand, is speeded up to compete with railroad transportation of a private highway where all vehicles are mechanically or automatically controlled and the results are disastrous.

Thousands Slaughtered

"Railway transportation is being speeded up to compete with transportation by air, and air transportation is daily being speeded up to establish new speed records, and the price of it all is shown in the accident records.

"Last year 37,000 persons were killed and more than one million were injured in motor vehicle accidents. These include 3,933 grade-crossing accidents in which 1,680 persons were killed and 4,658 persons were injured. One thousand three hundred seventy-two of these crossing accidents in which 338 persons were killed and 2,018 were injured, were caused by motor vehicles running into the sides of trains.

Danger of Grade Crossings

"Train speeds of 100 miles per hour, which is 146.6 feet per second, now are common on a number of railroads.

"Heavy motor vehicles are by law in many states required to stop before crossing a railroad track.

"At many crossings trucks with trailers, which perhaps may be carrying inflammables or other dangerous commodities, after stopping for a railroad crossing might before they could get across a multiple track railroad be struck by a high speed train which was not within the range of the driver's vision when he started across the tracks, and the train could not be stopped before reaching the crossing by an emergency application of the brakes made as soon as the crossing came within range of the engineer's vision.

"There is only one remedy for such a situation, namely, grade separation, and this should be the immediate objective wherever such trains are operated."

BUTCHERS PACT SIGNED BY 40 MEMPHIS STORES

Memphis, Tenn. (AFLNS).—The drive of the Memphis Local of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America to sign up all Memphis meat markets for the union shop resulted in agreements being signed with forty stores in one week. Looks as though Memphis would be a 100 per cent union town for the butchers before long.

Strikers Entitled to Unemployment Compensation Benefits in New York

A Ten-Weeks Wait and Willingness to Accept Employment Are Required; Pickets Are Included With Unemployed.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Out of the 51 Unemployment Insurance Laws, set up in all 48 States, Hawaii, Alaska and the District of Columbia, under the Social Security Act, only three, so far as has been determined, provide for payment of unemployment insurance benefits to workers on strike.

With Pennsylvania and Rhode Island in the vanguard, a recent official interpretation of the New York State law adds the third.

Strikers Benefits Limited

The New York law does provide, however, that a worker who "has lost his employment because of a strike, lockout or other industrial controversy in the establishment in which he is employed" must wait ten weeks before becoming eligible for payments, instead of the usual three weeks in normal cases.

Pickets are also held eligible for benefits, since the State Labor Department interpretation states that the statute does not differentiate between "workers who are participating actively in a labor dispute and those who are unwittingly or unwillingly victims of a dispute."

Company Union Jobs Banned

During the waiting period, the New York law specifies that persons waiting must hold themselves in readiness for assignment for other jobs by the State Department Service.

While the law stipulates that no benefits shall be paid to a person who refuses a job for which he is reasonably fitted by training and experience, exception is provided if "acceptance of such employment would either require the employe to join a 'company union' or would interfere with his joining or retaining membership in any labor organization."

The first applications for unemployment insurance in New York will be received January 3. From $7 to $15 in weekly payments will be allowed, for a period not exceeding 16 weeks.

Most States Discriminate Against Strikers

Eight unemployment insurance laws, including the one in force in the District of Columbia, flatly disqualify any worker from benefits during any week of unemployment caused by a labor controversy. In most States, however, a worker's participation in the dispute forms the basis for disqualification.

In 35 states, Hawaii and Alaska, the separate laws provide that no benefits may be paid a worker during any week of unemployment caused by a labor dispute, unless neither he nor any member of his grade or class is taking part, helping to finance or directly interested in the controversy. Only three States provide modifications of this stipulation.

Organized labor holds, of course, that when a worker is unemployed, he is unemployed in fact, and requires sustenance, which should be forthcoming without discrimination for union activities.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES FELL DURING OCTOBER

Secretary Perkins Reports Only 303,286 Secured Jobs Through Federal Services in Month; 12.3 Per Cent Below September.

The drop of employment by private industry which marked the most notable part of the current "recession" occurred during the month of October, when the number of placements by the U. S. Employment Bureau fell off 12.3 per cent, a recent statement by the Secretary of Labor revealed.

At the end of October, there were 3,386,570 men and 1,006,522 women actively seeking work through the U. S. employment services. During that month, 291,187 new applications for jobs were received, 197,755 being from men.

During the month, work was found in private employment for 210,240 applicants. The total placements for the month, including relief work, was 303,286. Declines were noted in all but eight States, including every area. However, the east south central group of States was hardest hit, with placements dropping 20 per cent; with the Mountain States region dropping only 4.5 per cent.

Notwithstanding the drop from September to October, placements by the service in private industry were 21.2 per cent greater than in 1936 and 79.6 above 1935.

$40,000,000 FUND READY FOR MASSACHUSETTS IDLE

Boston, Mass. (AFLNS).—Between 70,000 and 75,000 unemployed persons are expected to be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, when payments are started under the Massachusetts law, January 1, 1938.

The fund accumulated appears to be ample, however, the Massachusetts Unemployment Compensation Commission having a fund of forty million dollars available.

With an average of about $10 a week for twelve weeks expected, the existing fund with continuing contributions could take care of 325,000 persons, which is about 25 per cent of all persons in the State who are covered by the unemployment insurance law.

SAN DIEGO CONTRACTORS SIGN UNION SHOP PACT

Organized Employers Recognize Value of Agreement With Building Trades Unions After Twenty Years Procrastination.

San Diego, Calif. (AFLNS).—Officials of the Building Trades Council here are elated over the contract negotiated with the San Diego chapter of the Associated General Contractors which will unionize construction work on all of the larger buildings throughout San Diego County. Labor leaders said the contract resulted from twenty years of unrelenting work to convince the organized contractors that an agreement with organized labor would benefit them as well as the workers.

Thousands of members of the building trades crafts, as well as laborers, will directly benefit from the agreement, which stipulates that only union members shall work on any buildings constructed by contracting members of the Associated General Contractors.

The agreement includes provisions for better wages, improved working conditions, and more stringent application of union rules.

In addition, the contract calls for a conference board composed of representatives appointed by the unions and the contractors association to settle individual problems and to assist in interpreting the agreement.

KENOSHA LABORERS WIN STRIKE FOR HIGHER PAY

Agreement for Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Grade Crossing Job Provides 283 Per Cent Wage Increase.

Kenosha, Wis. (AFLNS).—Organized labor in Kenosha interpret the terms for settling the strike of the common laborers on the track elevation project of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad here as an outstanding victory for militant trade unionism.

The laborers struck against the wage rate of 30 cents an hour imposed by officials of the railroad. The settlement terms provided that the remainder of the work would be let to a private contractor who must pay the union scale of 85 cents an hour for common labor.

Union officials estimated that the wage increase amounted to 283 per cent, the largest ever won at one time by any union in Kenosha. Men who had been working 60 hours a week for $18 will be paid $34 for a 40-hour week under the agreement.

The conference which settled the strike was participated in by representatives of the Common Laborers Union, the Business Agents Conference, the Trades and Labor Council, and the strikers.

It was stated that three of the four men who refused to join the strike will not be eligible for employment under the union agreement.